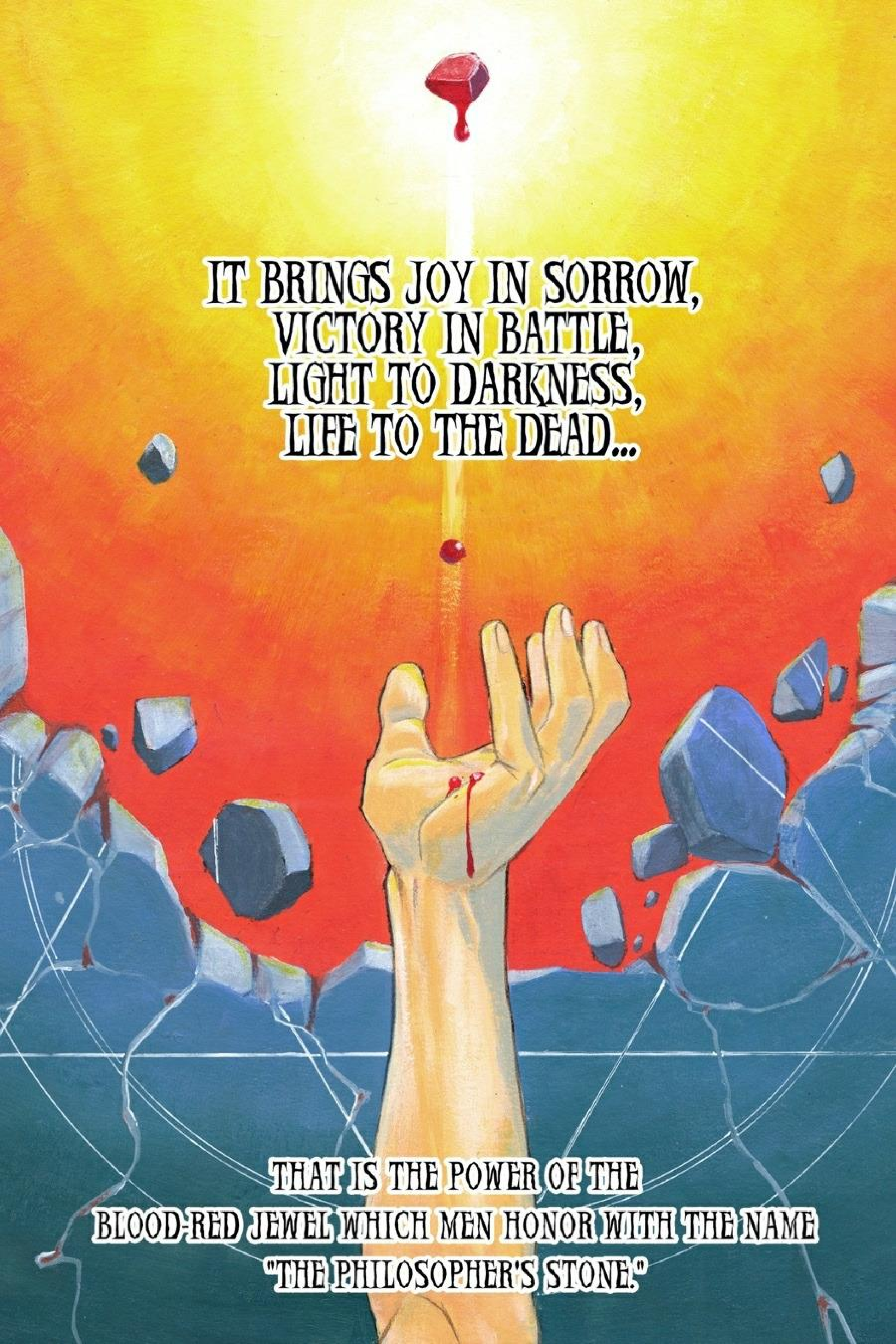


The background is a vibrant gradient of yellow, orange, and red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. At the top center, a red, diamond-shaped jewel is falling, with a small red droplet trailing behind it. A bright, vertical beam of light emanates from the jewel. In the center, a pale, human hand is reaching upwards, palm facing up, with a small red wound on the back of the hand from which a red droplet is falling. The hand is positioned directly beneath the falling jewel. The bottom of the image shows a dark, blue, cracked surface, possibly representing the ground or a broken mirror, with several jagged, grey rock-like fragments floating or lying around. The overall composition is symmetrical and dramatic.

IT BRINGS JOY IN SORROW,
VICTORY IN BATTLE,
LIGHT TO DARKNESS,
LIFE TO THE DEAD...

THAT IS THE POWER OF THE
BLOOD-RED JEWEL WHICH MEN HONOR WITH THE NAME
"THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE."



Chapter 11:
The Two Guardians





FULLMETAL
ALCHEMIST



IF WHAT
THESE
DOCUMENTS
SAY IS TRUE,
THEN THE MAIN
INGREDIENT
FOR THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE IS A
**LIVE HUMAN
BEING.**



MAYBE
WE WOULD
HAVE BEEN
BETTER
OFF NOT
KNOWING
THE TRUTH
AT ALL.



NOT ONLY
THAT, IT
WOULD TAKE
NUMEROUS
HUMAN
SACRIFICES
TO CREATE
ONE
STONE!

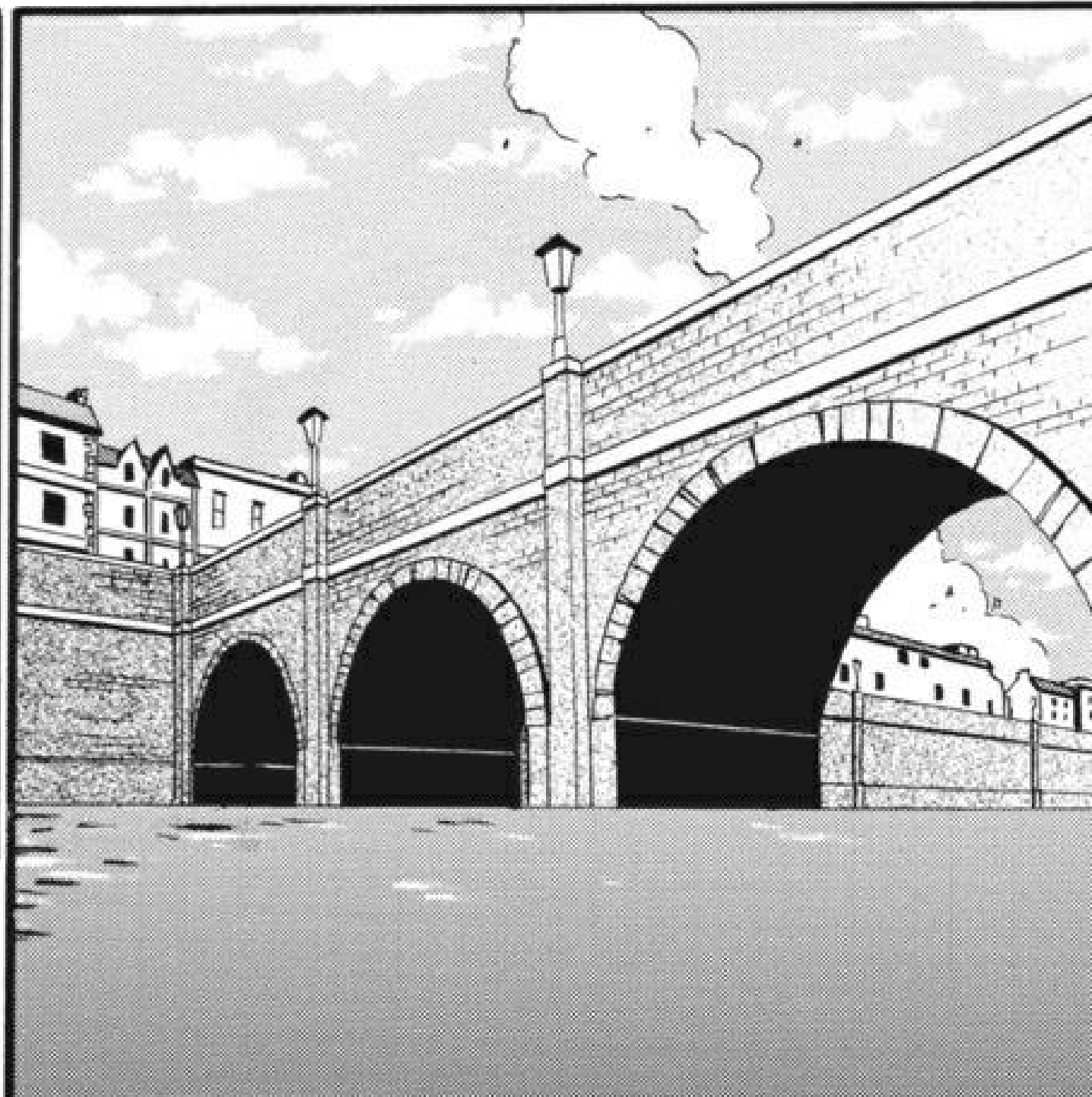
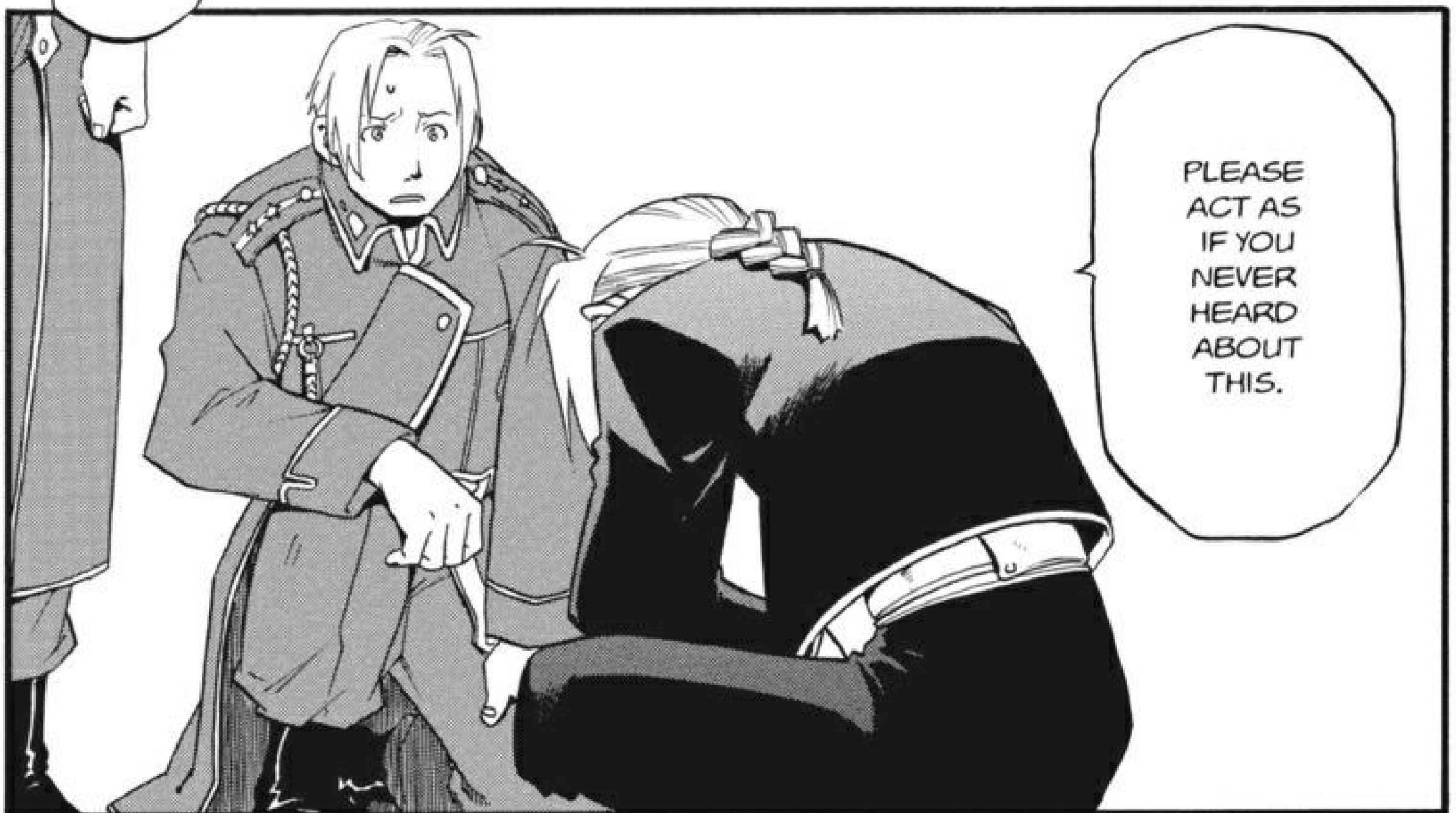


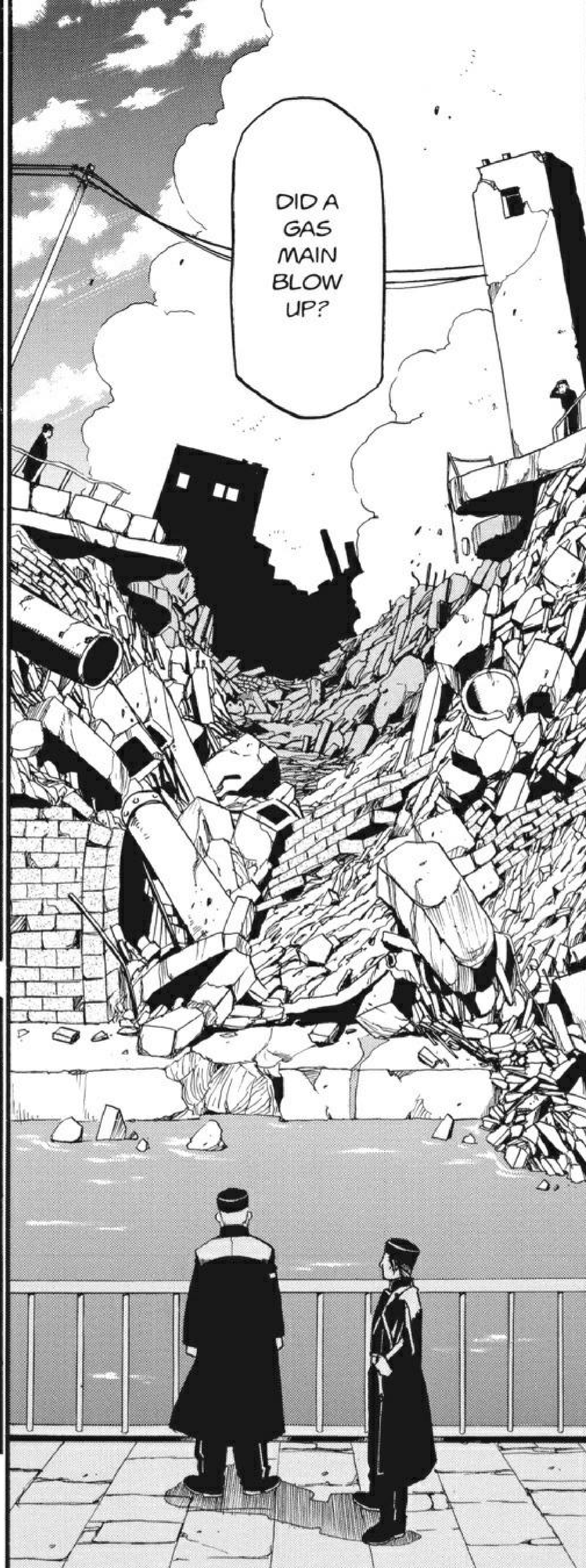
SECOND
LIEUTENANT
ROSS,
SERGEANT
BROSH...



WE
CAN'T
ALLOW
THIS
TO GO
UNPUN-
ISHED
!

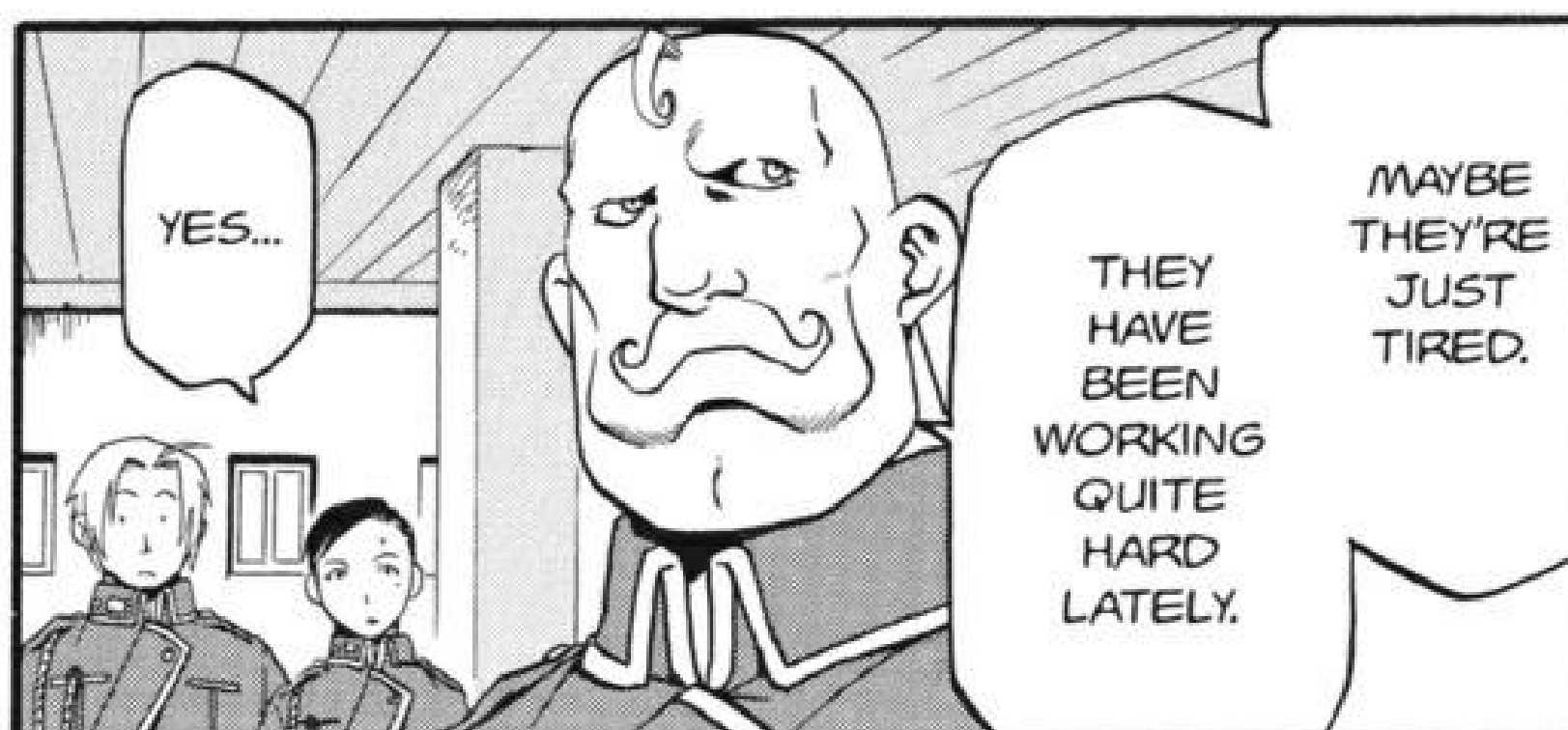
I NEVER
IMAGINED
THAT
SOMETHING
SO
INHUMANE
WAS BEING
CONDUCTED
BY THE
MILITARY...

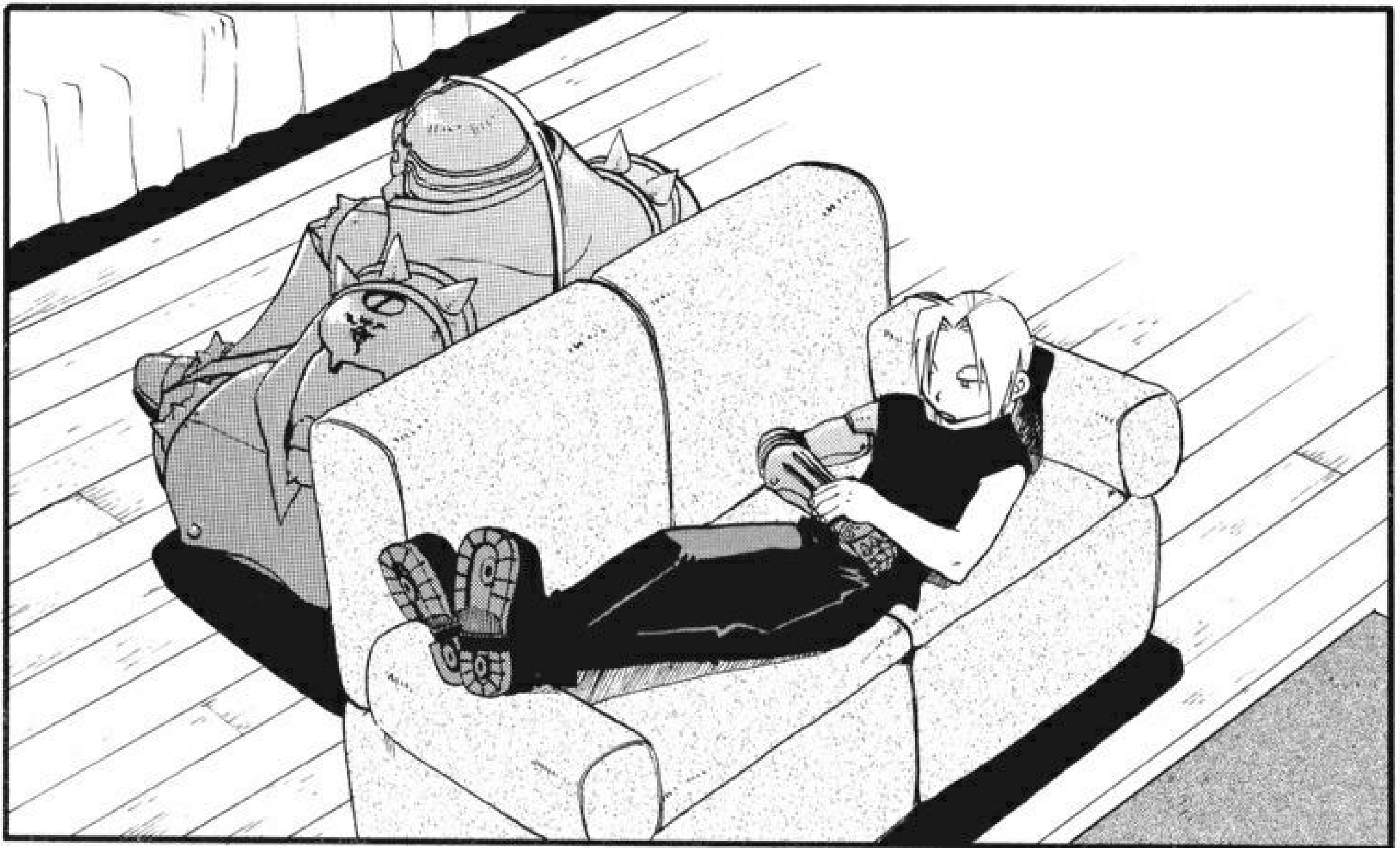
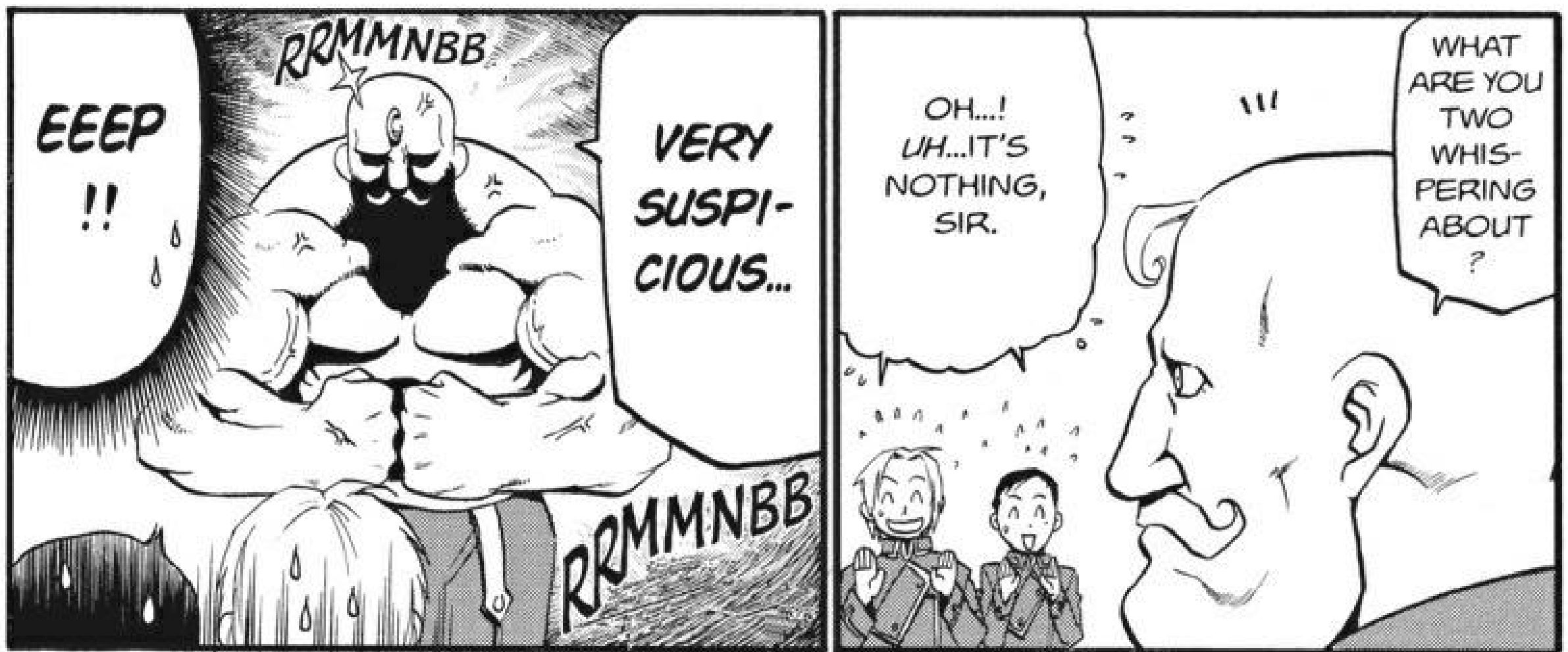


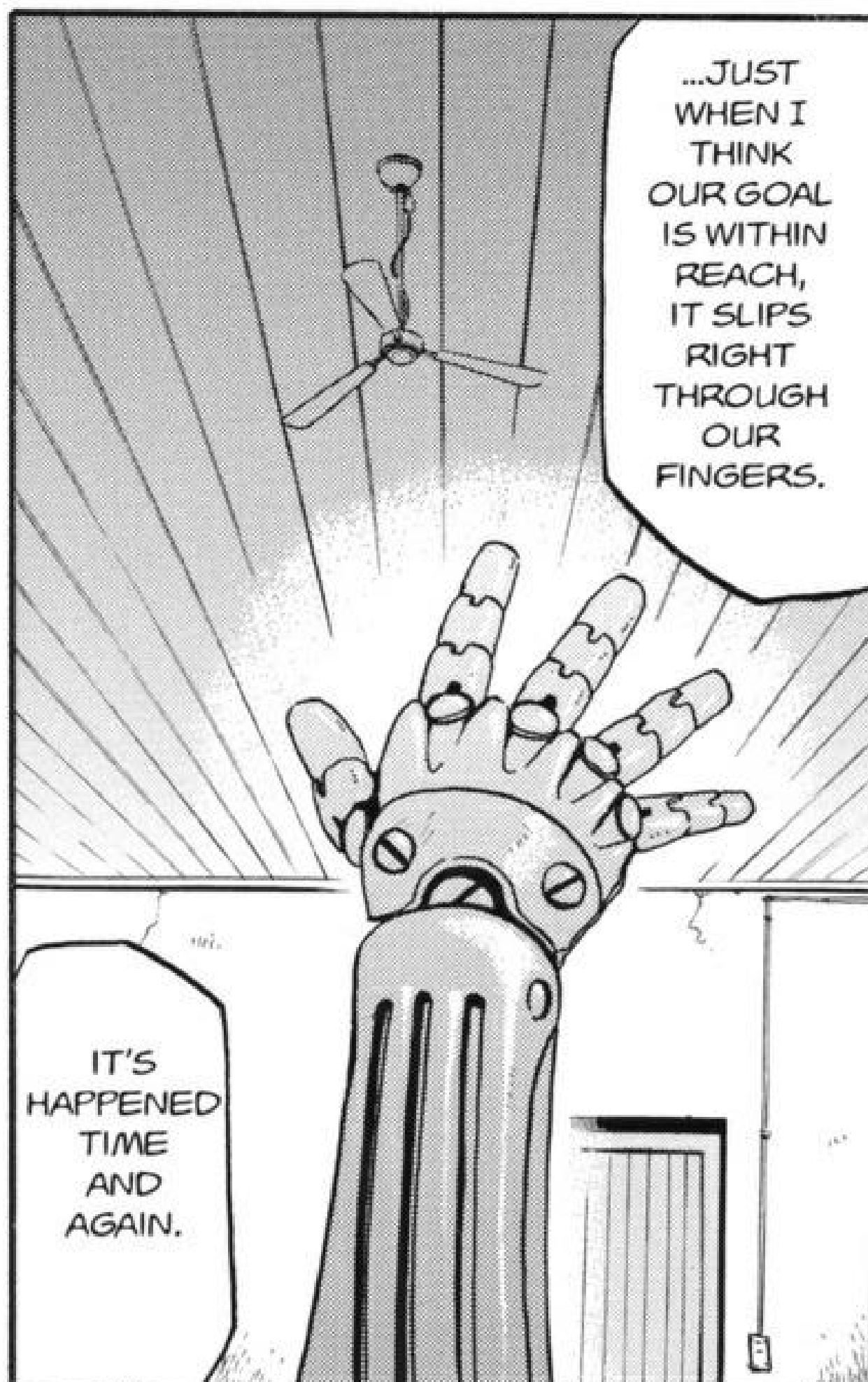
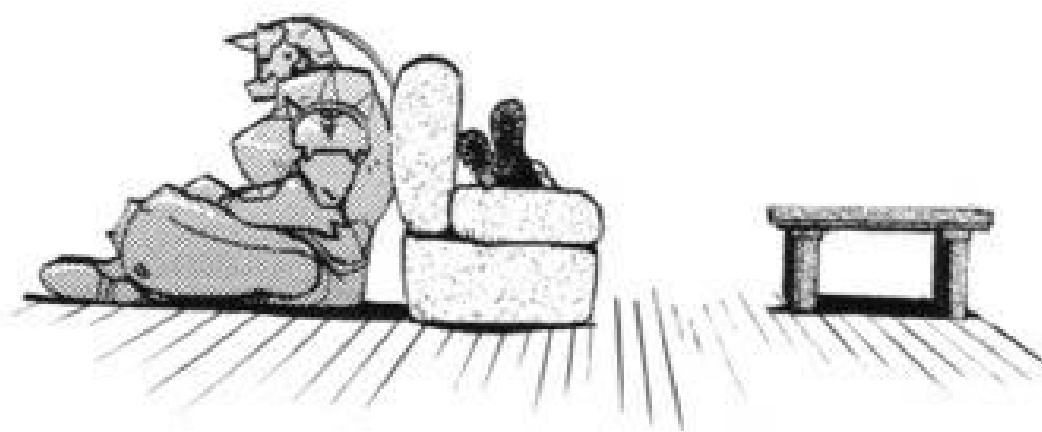












...JUST WHEN I THINK OUR GOAL IS WITHIN REACH, IT SLIPS RIGHT THROUGH OUR FINGERS.

IT'S HAPPENED TIME AND AGAIN.



I'M TIRED OF THIS.

...YEAH.



IT'S LIKE...

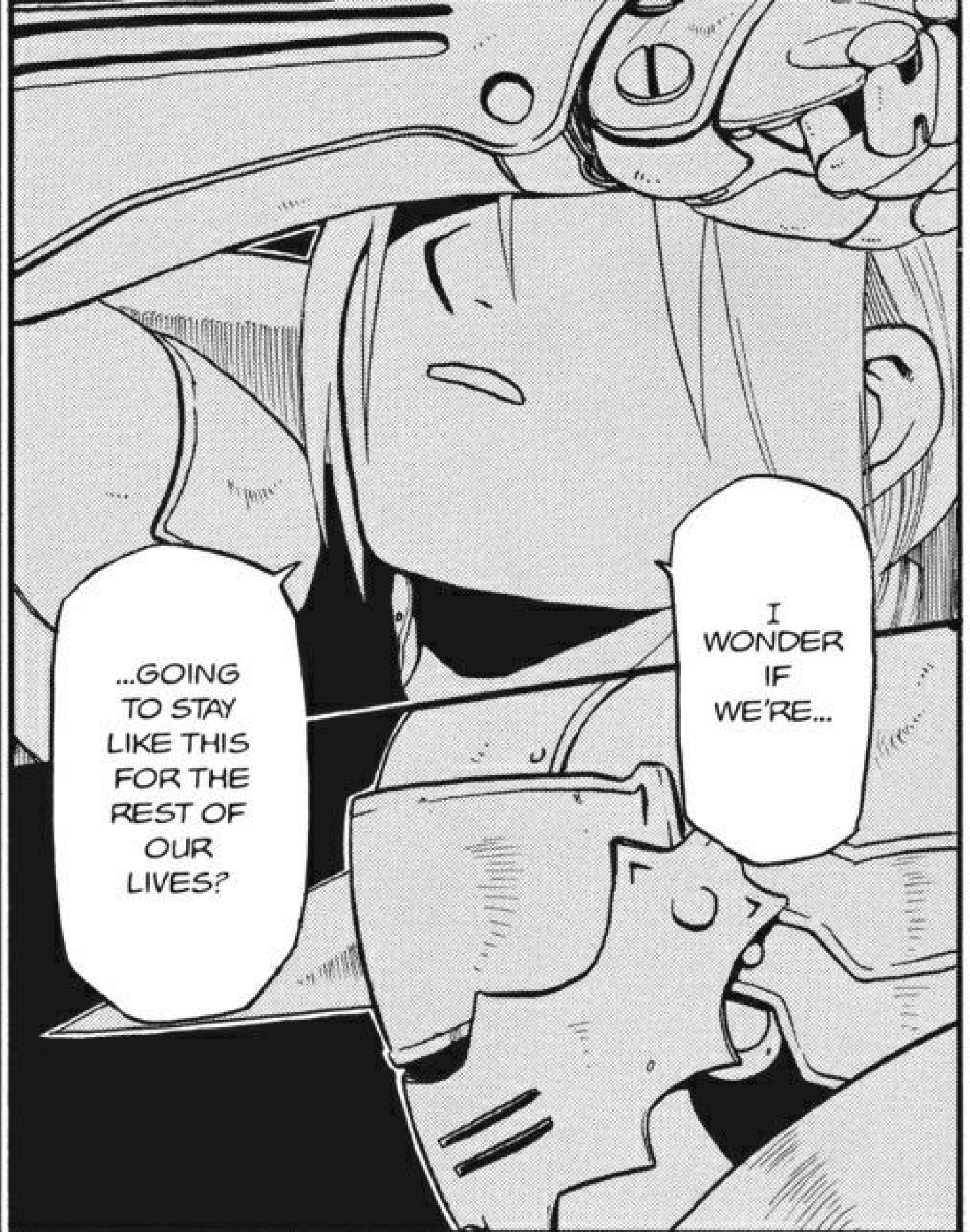


I GUESS GOD REALLY DOES HAVE IT IN FOR US SINNERS.

HA HA...



AND NOW, WHEN WE ACTUALLY HAVE IT IN OUR GRASP, THE TRUTH SLAPS US IN THE FACE.







I CAN-
NOT IN
GOOD CON-
SCIENCE
STAY QUIET
ABOUT
THIS
MATTER!!

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT
IF THIS HELLISH
RESEARCH WAS BEING
CONDUCTED BY
AN ORGANIZATION
WORKING UNDER THE
MILITARY, THEN IT IS A
GRAVE SITUATION
INDEED!!



GOOSH

WHO WOULD'VE
IMAGINED
THAT THE
PHILOSOPHER'S STONE
CONCEALED
SUCH A
TERRIBLE
SECRET!!?

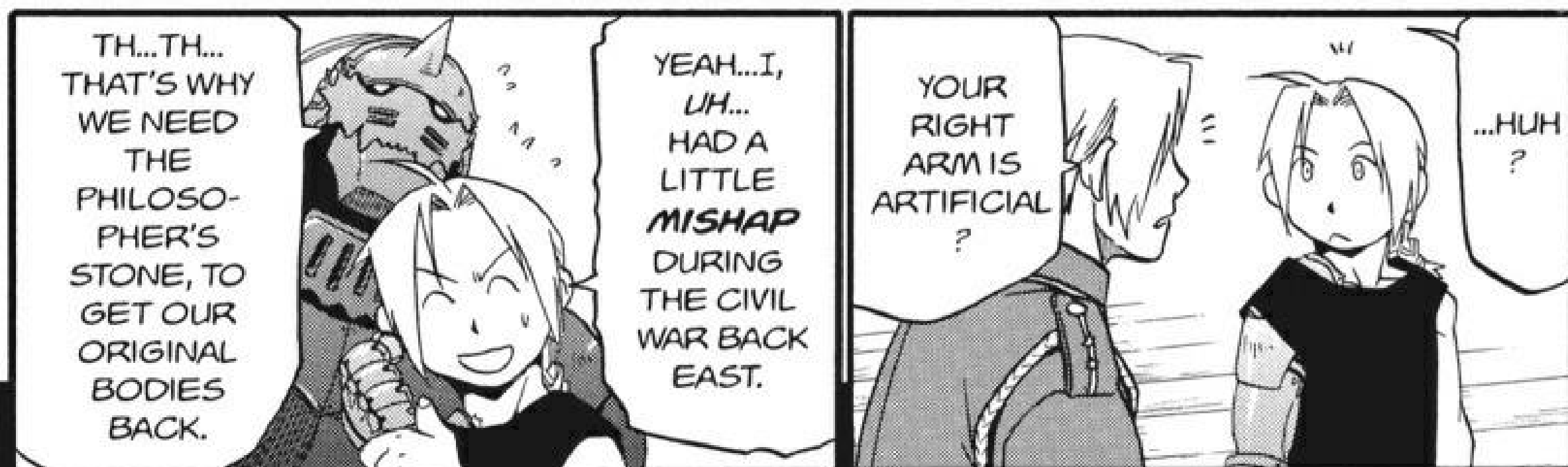
SUCH
A
TRAGEDY
!!



WH-WHEN
HE GOT
LIKE THAT,
WE **HAD**
TO TELL
HIM...

I'M
SO
S-S-S-
SORRY...

...
...
...
...
...



TH...TH...
THAT'S WHY
WE NEED
THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE, TO
GET OUR
ORIGINAL
BODIES
BACK.

YEAH...I,
UH...
HAD A
LITTLE
MISHAP
DURING
THE CIVIL
WAR BACK
EAST.

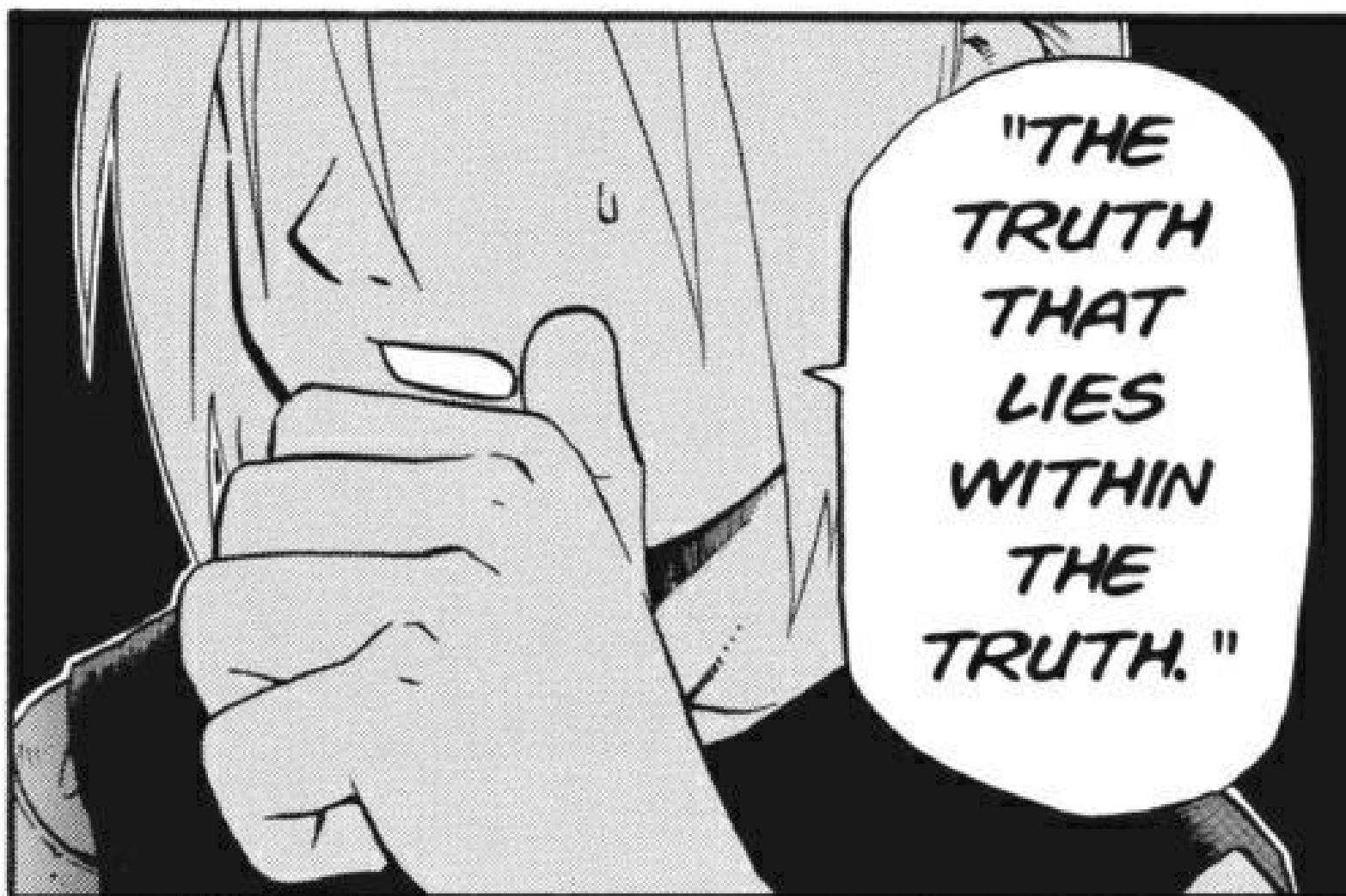
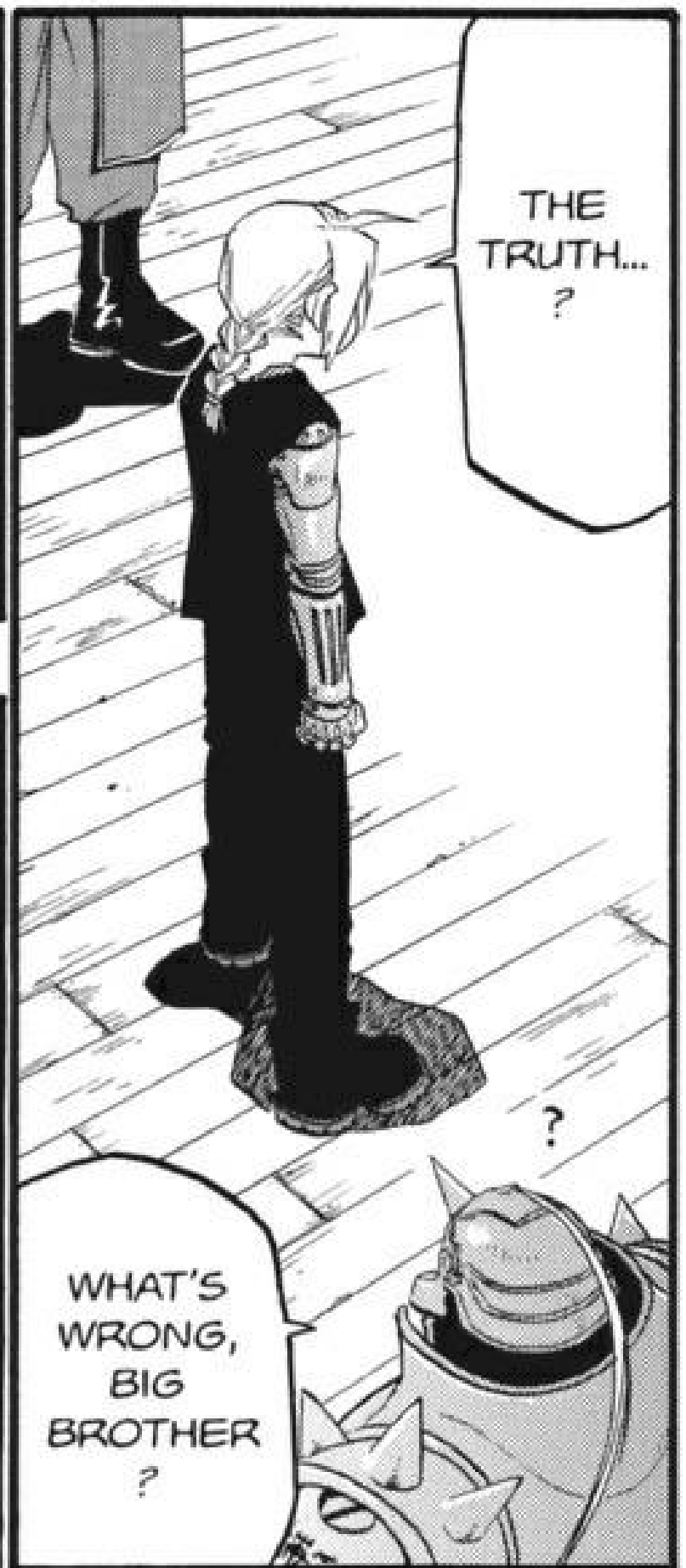
YOUR
RIGHT
ARM IS
ARTIFICIAL
?

...HUH
?



THE
TRUTH
CAN BE
SO
CRUEL.

IS THAT
SO...? IT
MUST HAVE
BEEN
SO DISAP-
POINTING
FOR YOU TO
FIND OUT
WHAT YOU
DID.





CURRENTLY
THE BUILDING'S
OFF LIMITS,
DUE TO THE
DANGER OF
COLLAPSE.

IN THE PAST,
THAT WAS A FIFTH
RESEARCH LAB,
BUT THEY
SHUT IT DOWN
YEARS AGO.

THERE'S
A
PRISON
NEXT
TO IT.

HUH?
WHAT
MAKES
YOU SO
CERTAIN
?

THAT'S
OUR
PLACE.

IF THE MAIN INGREDIENT
FOR CREATING A
PHILOSOPHER'S STONE
IS LIVE HUMAN BEINGS,
THEN THEY NEED A
RELIABLE SUPPLY OF
RAW MATERIALS.

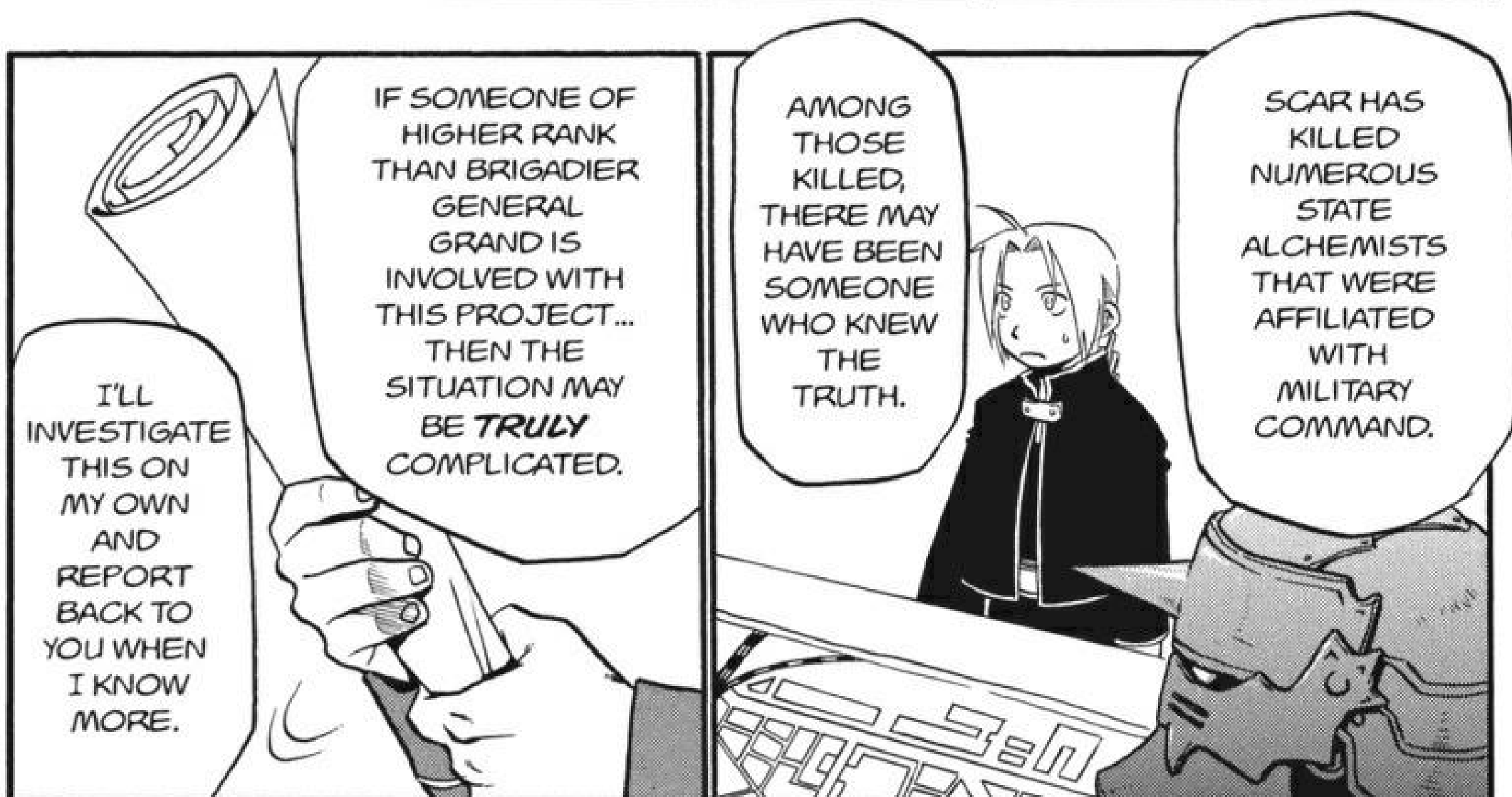
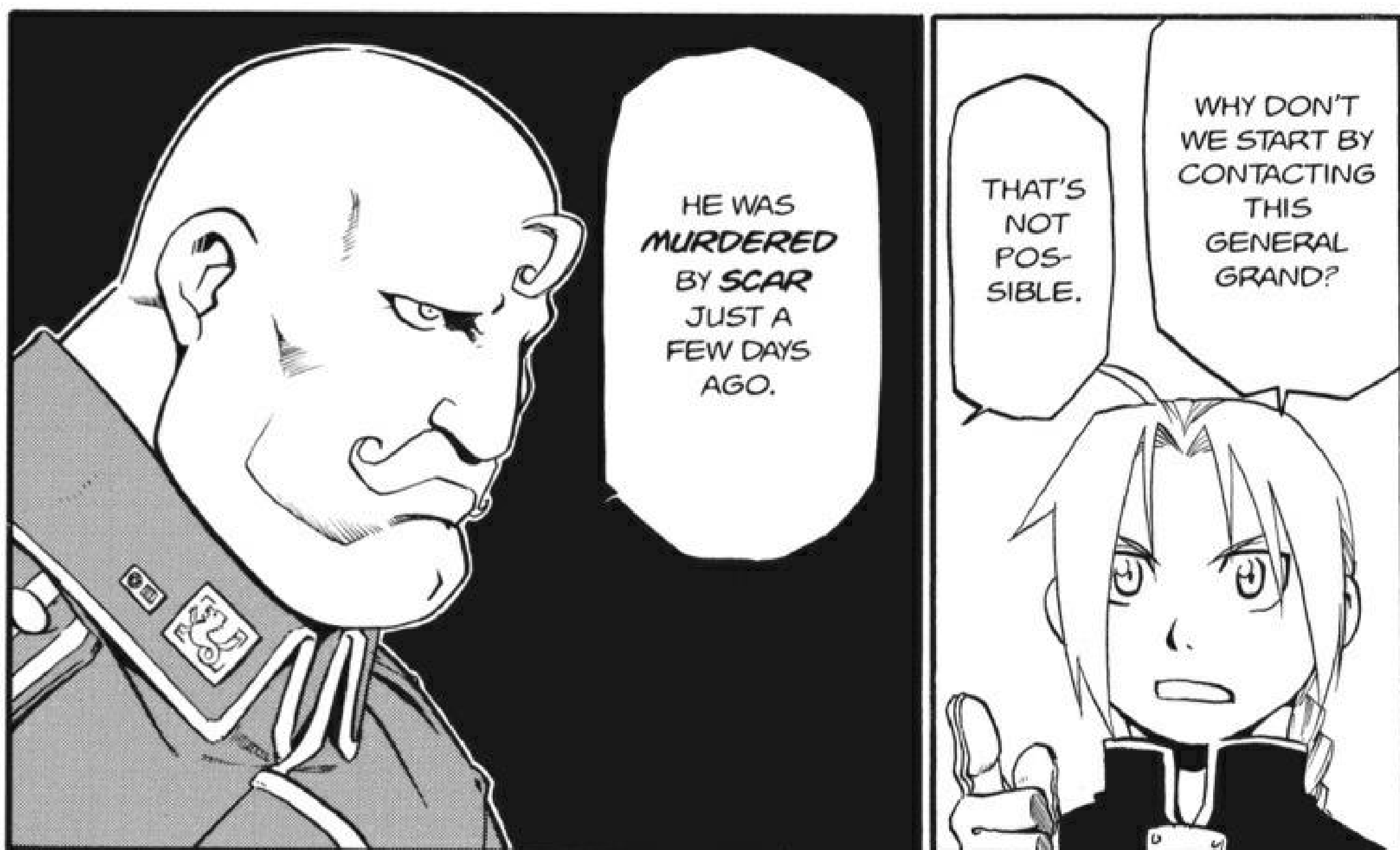
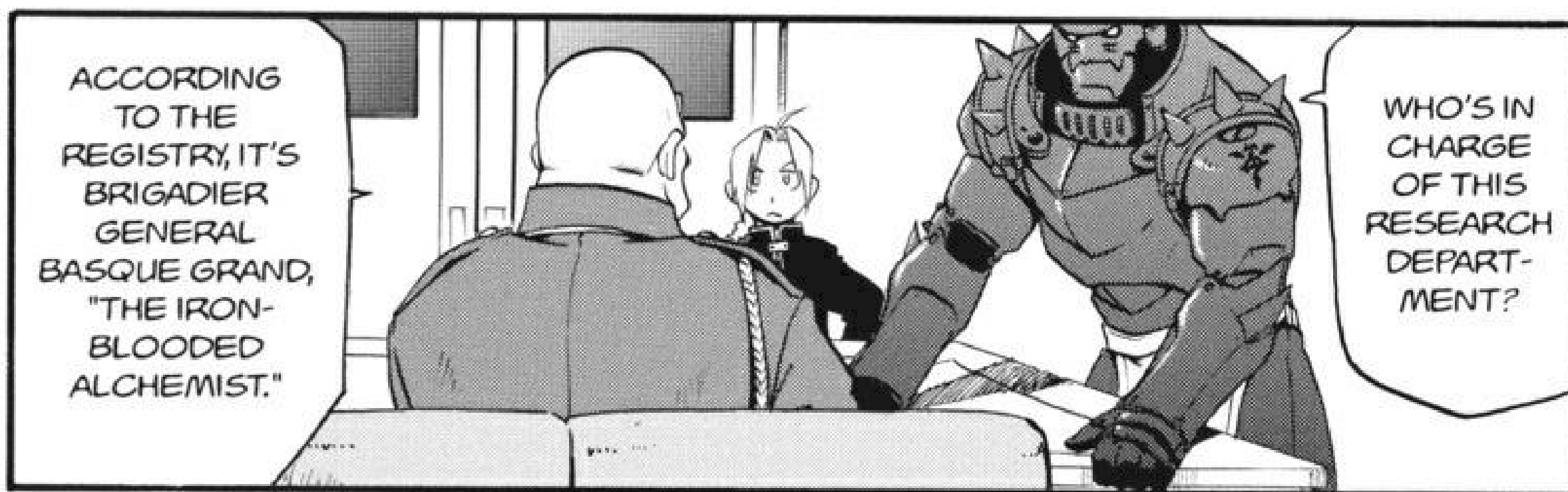
UH...

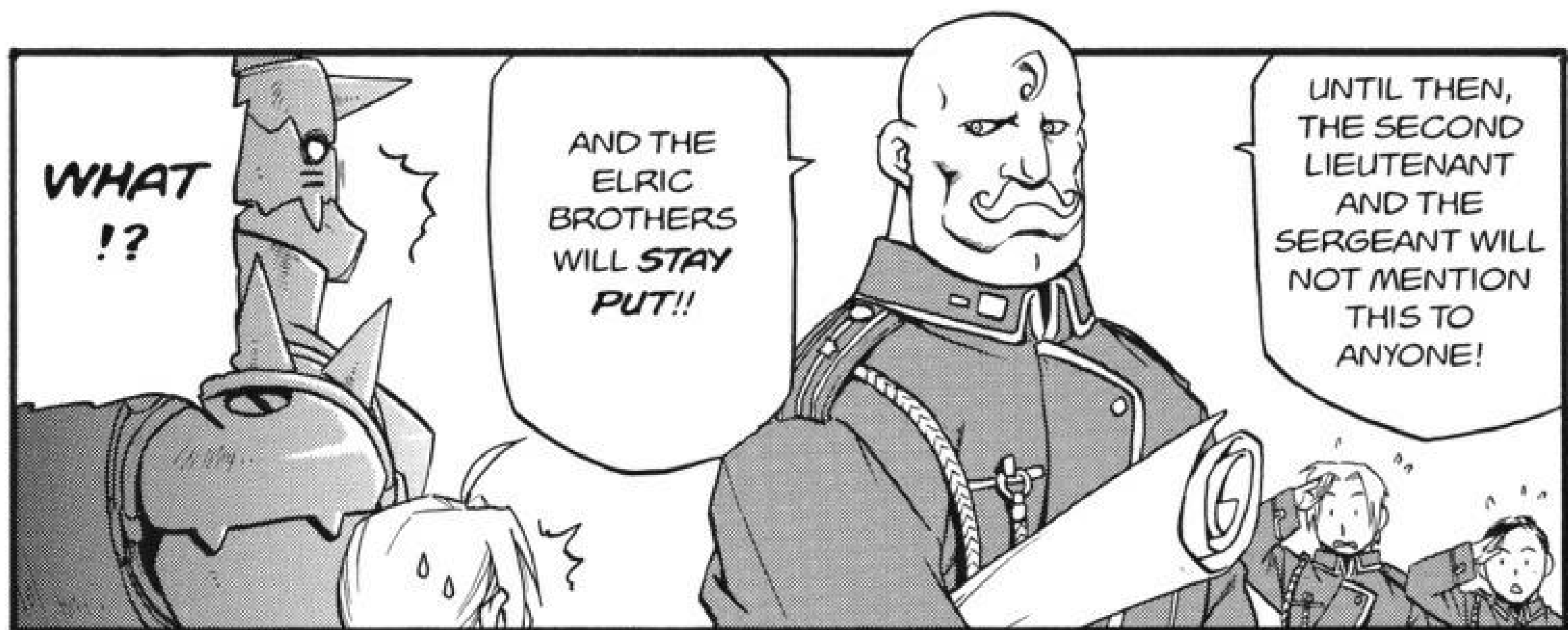
...WHERE
THEY'RE
USED IN
EXPERI-
MENTS
FOR THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE
PROJECT.

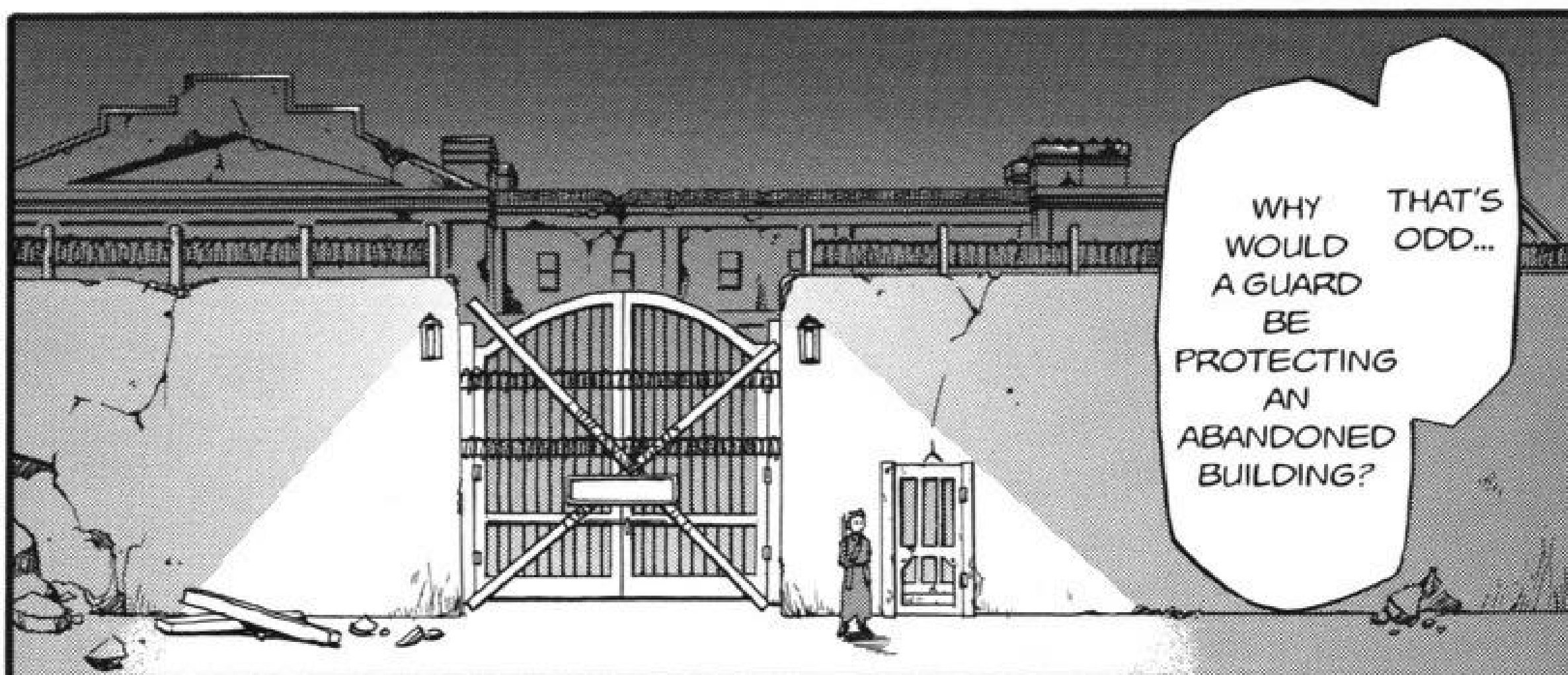
SO THEY MAKE
IT APPEAR AS IF
THE PRISONERS
ARE BEING
EXECUTED, BUT
IN REALITY,
THEY'RE
SECRETLY BEING
TRANSPORTED
TO THE LABS...

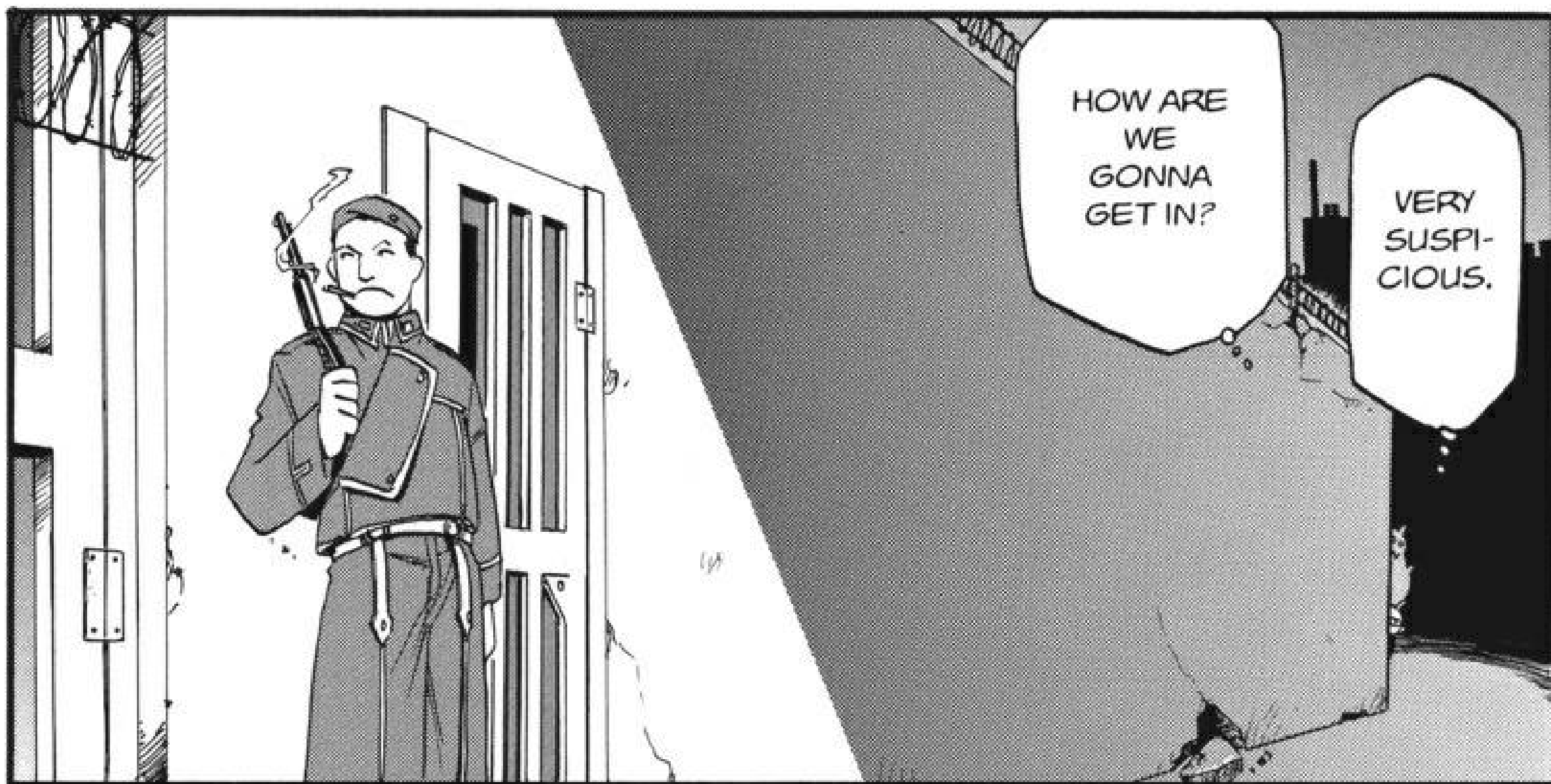
IF I'M NOT
MISTAKEN,
THE BODIES
OF EXECUTED
PRISONERS
AREN'T
RETURNED
TO THEIR
FAMILIES,
RIGHT?











HOW ARE
WE
GONNA
GET IN?

VERY
SUSPI-
CIOUS.

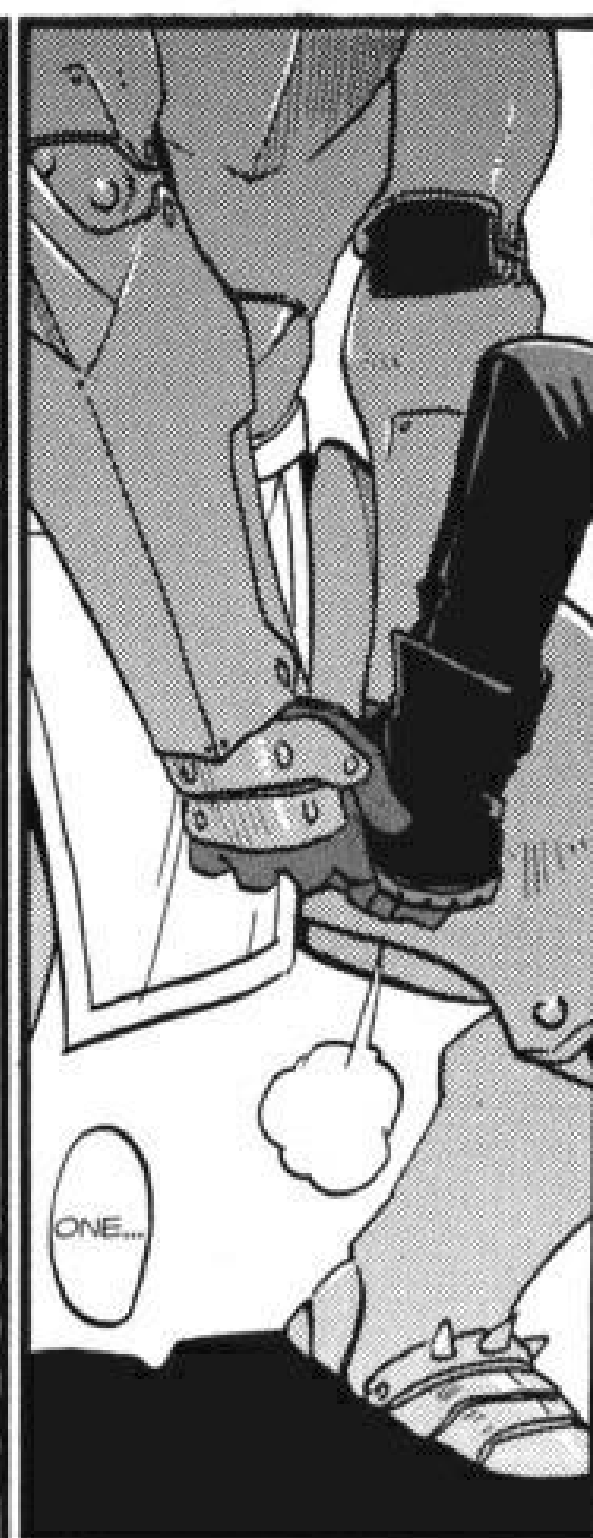


THE LIGHT
FROM THE
TRANSMUTATION
MIGHT ALERT
THE GUARD.

WE
COULD
MAKE
**OUR
OWN**
EN-
TRANCE...



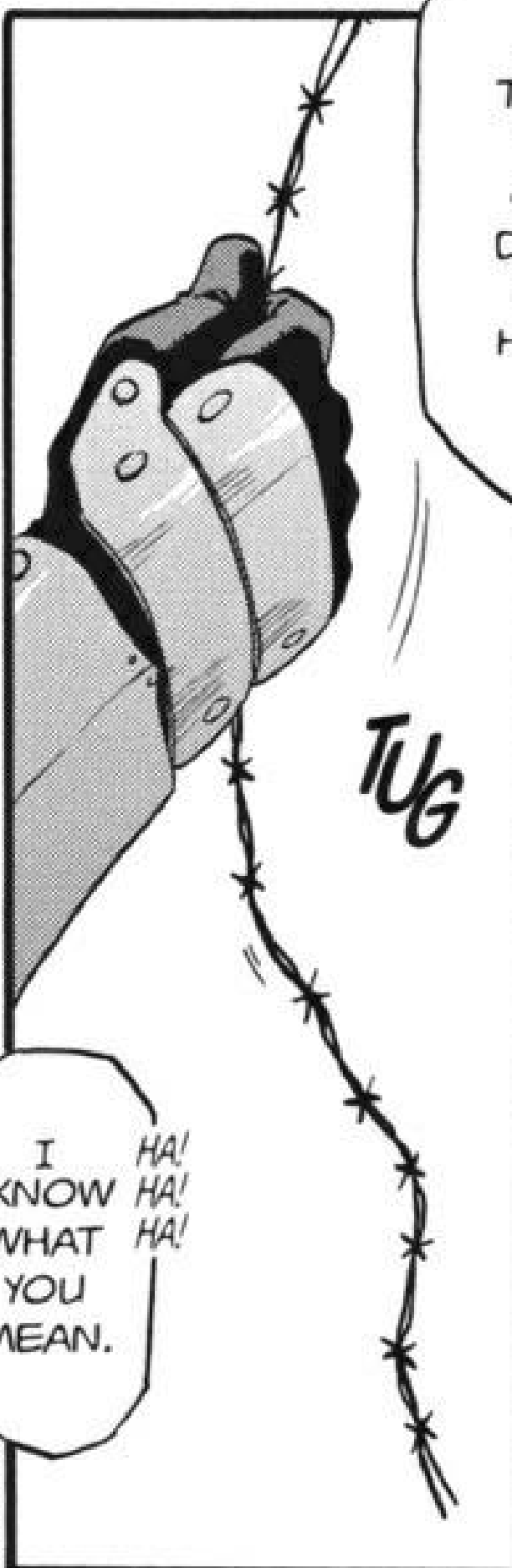
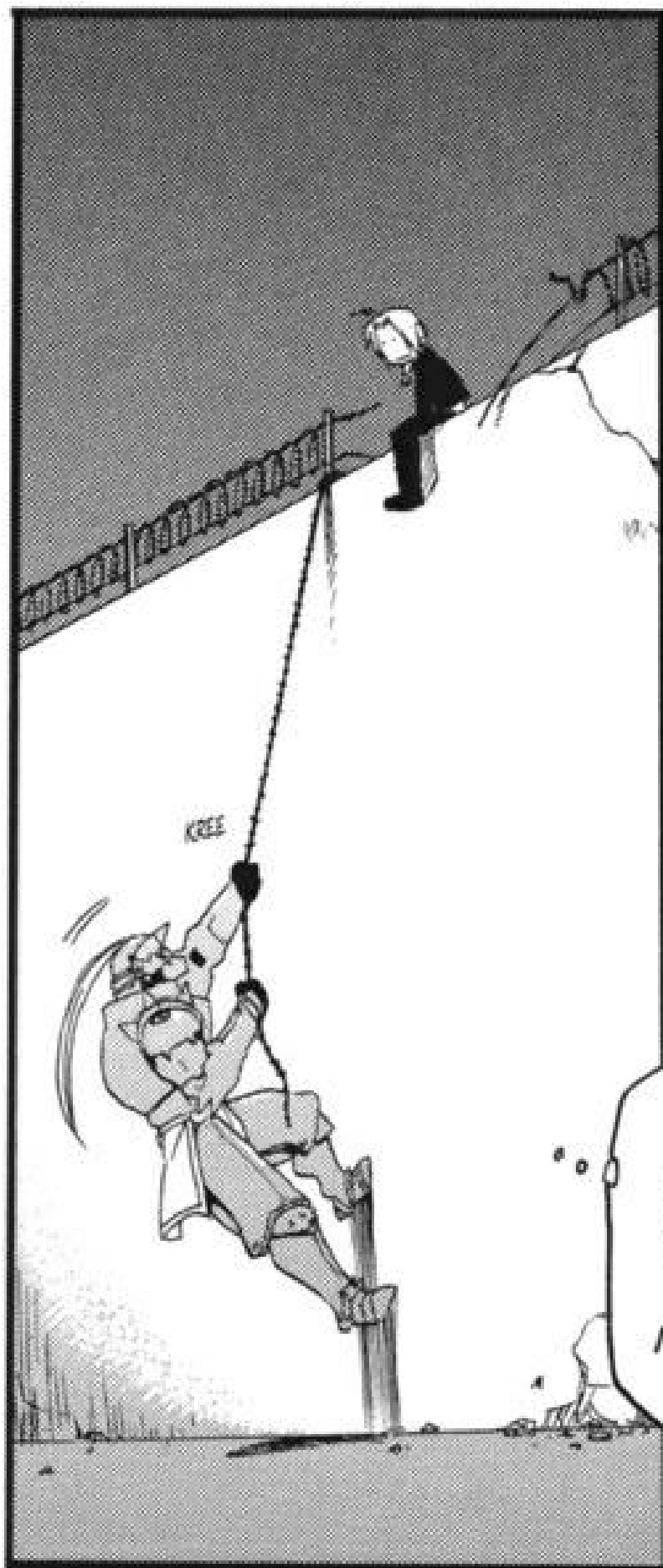
AND TWO!



ONE...



ALL
RIGHT.
THEN
THAT
LEAVES...



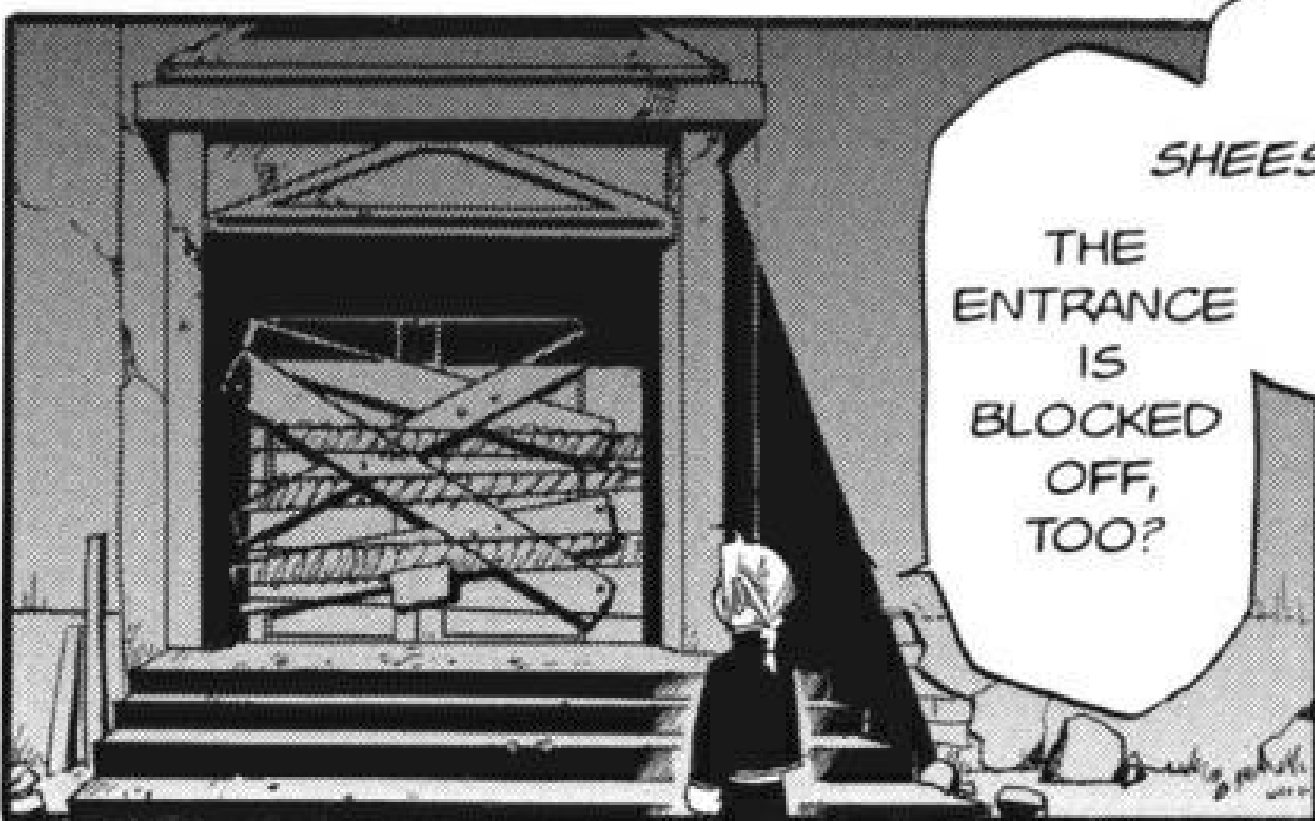
...BUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I'M **GLAD** WE DON'T HAVE REGULAR HANDS AND FEET.

IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS...

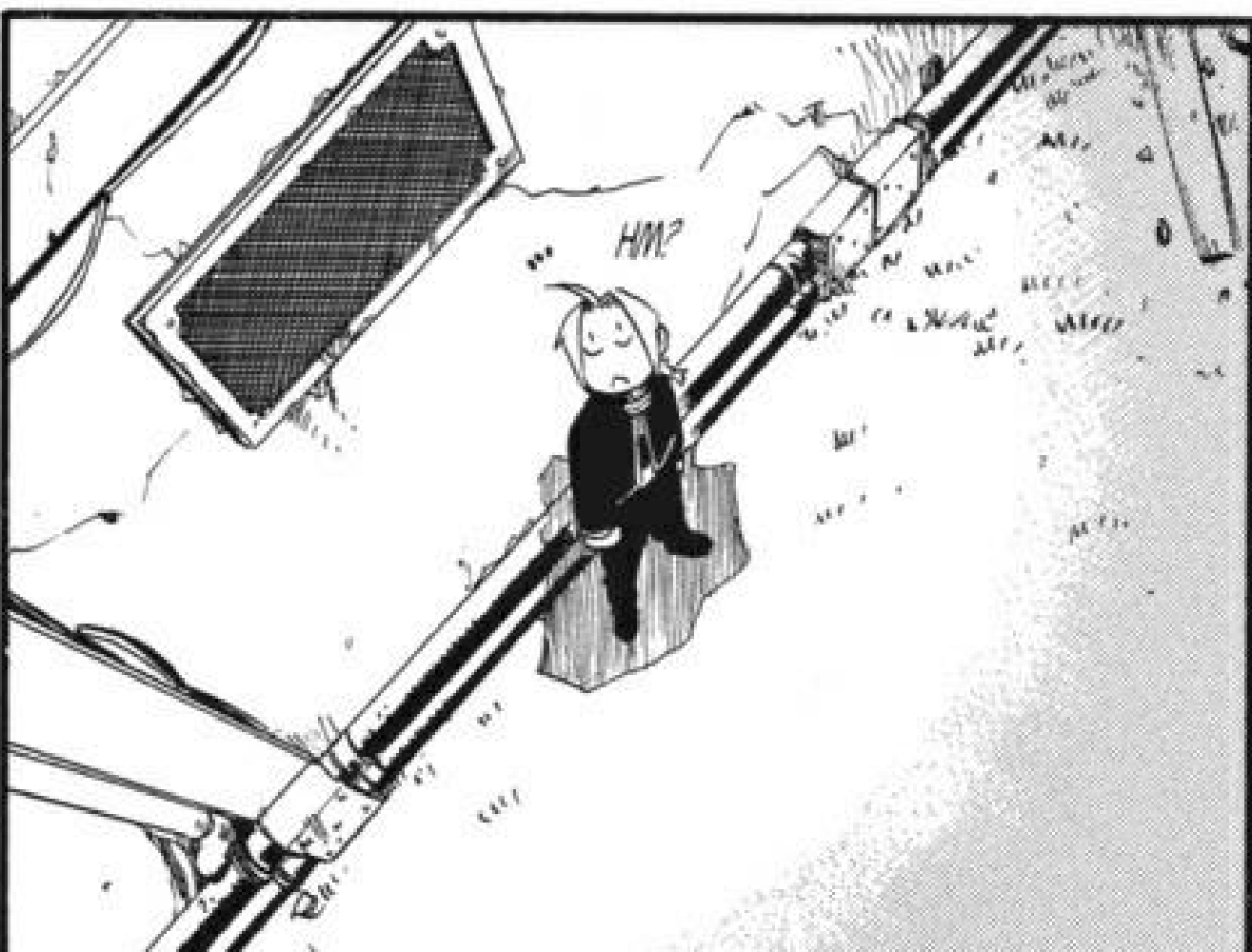


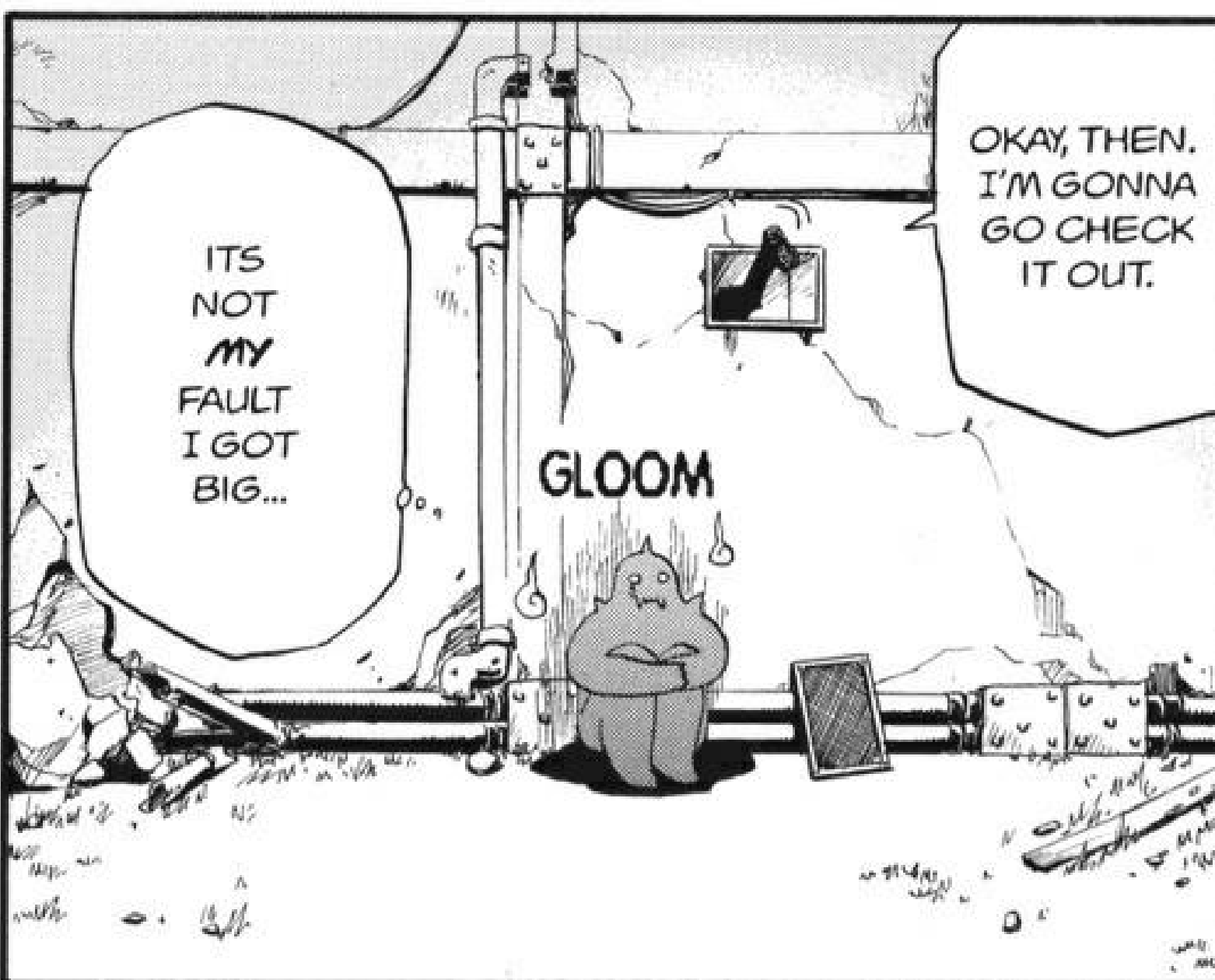
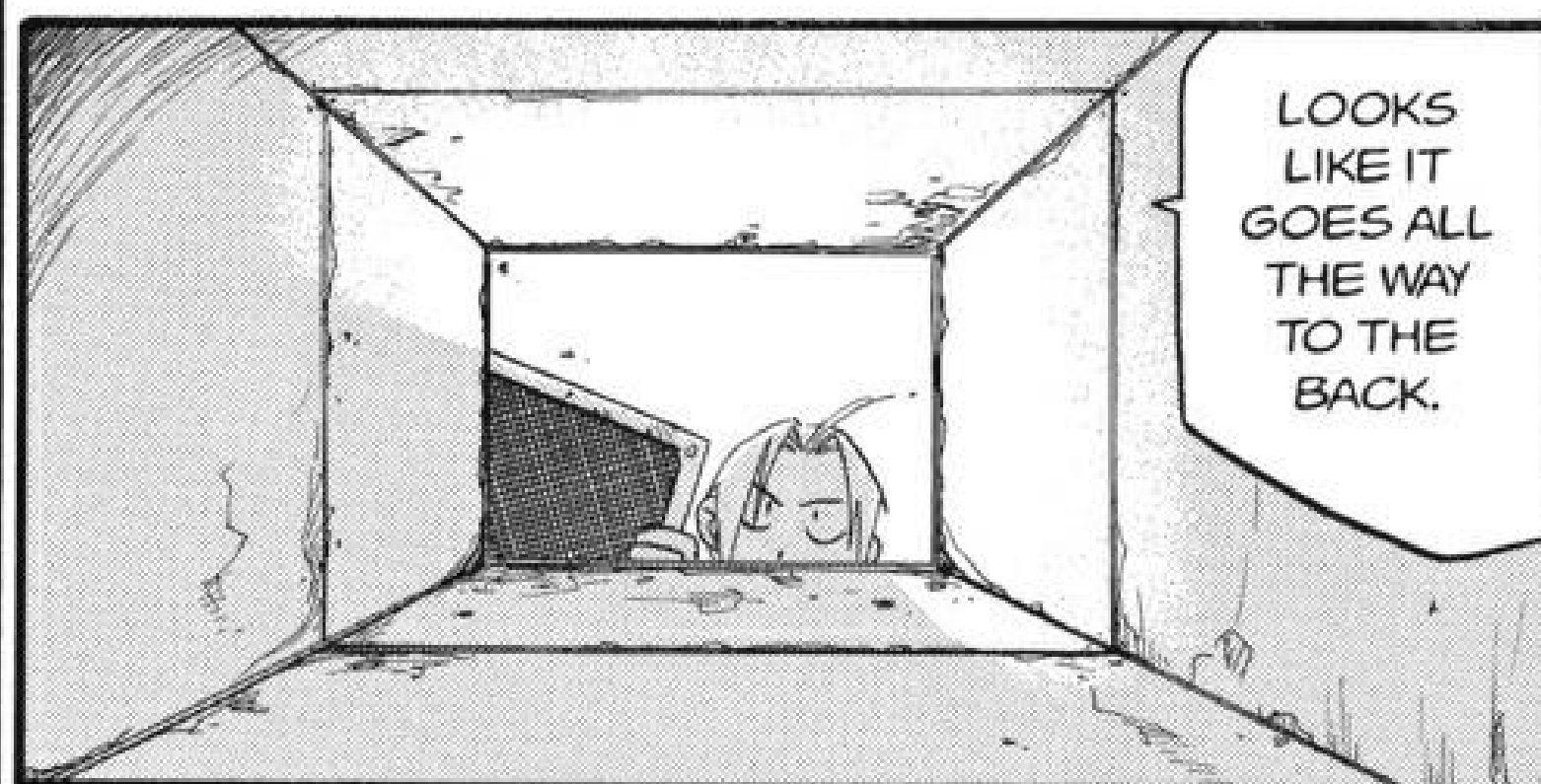
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

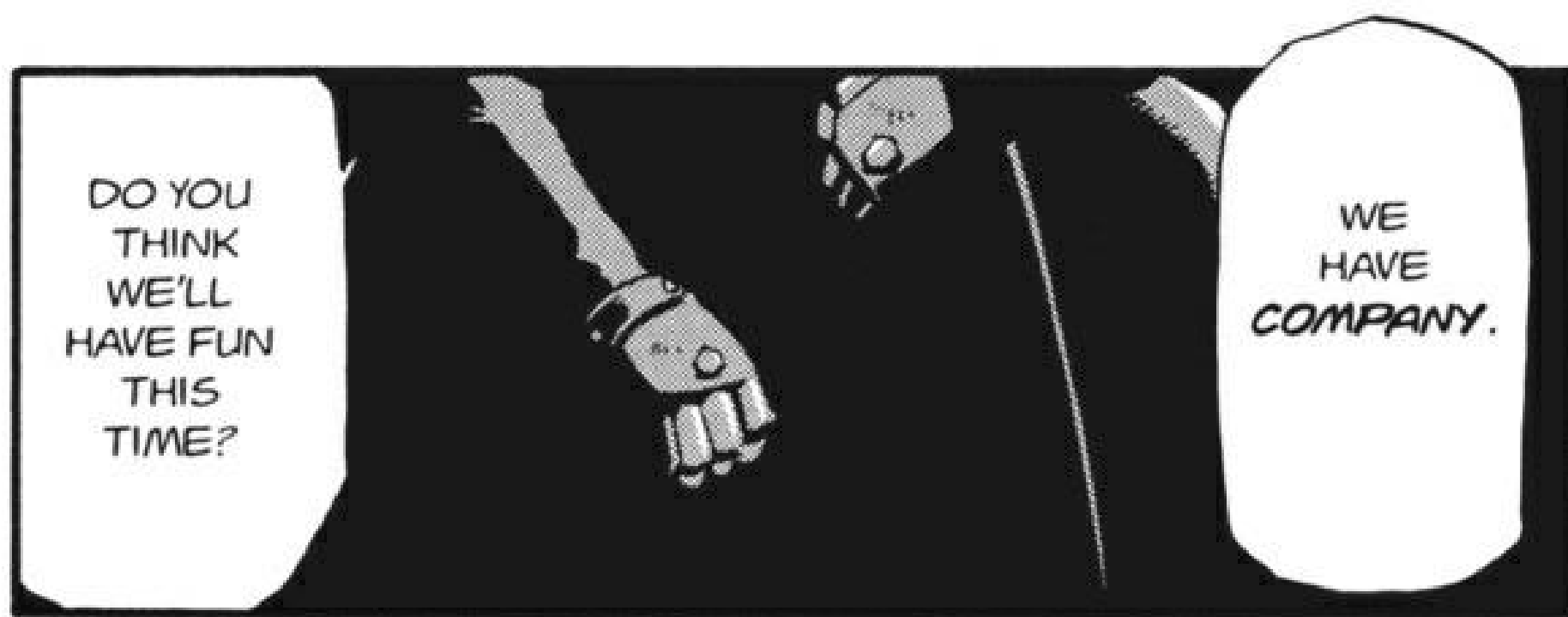
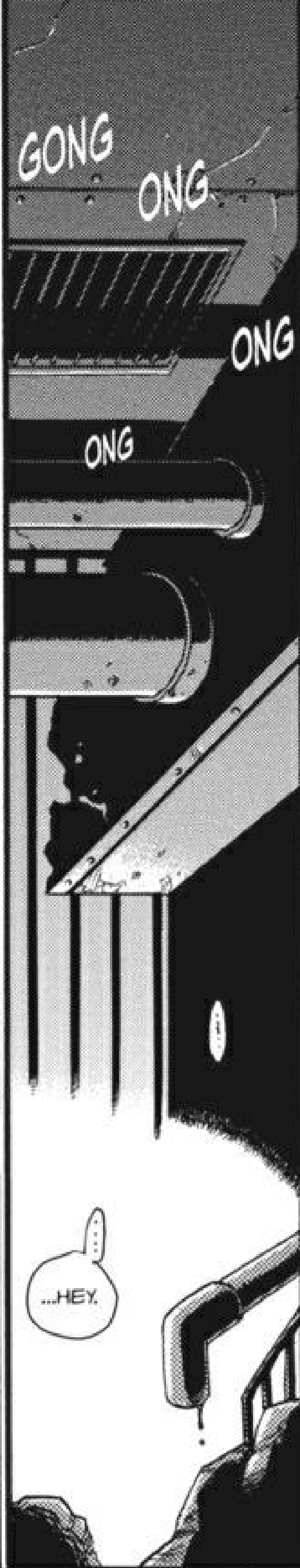
HA!
HA!
HA!

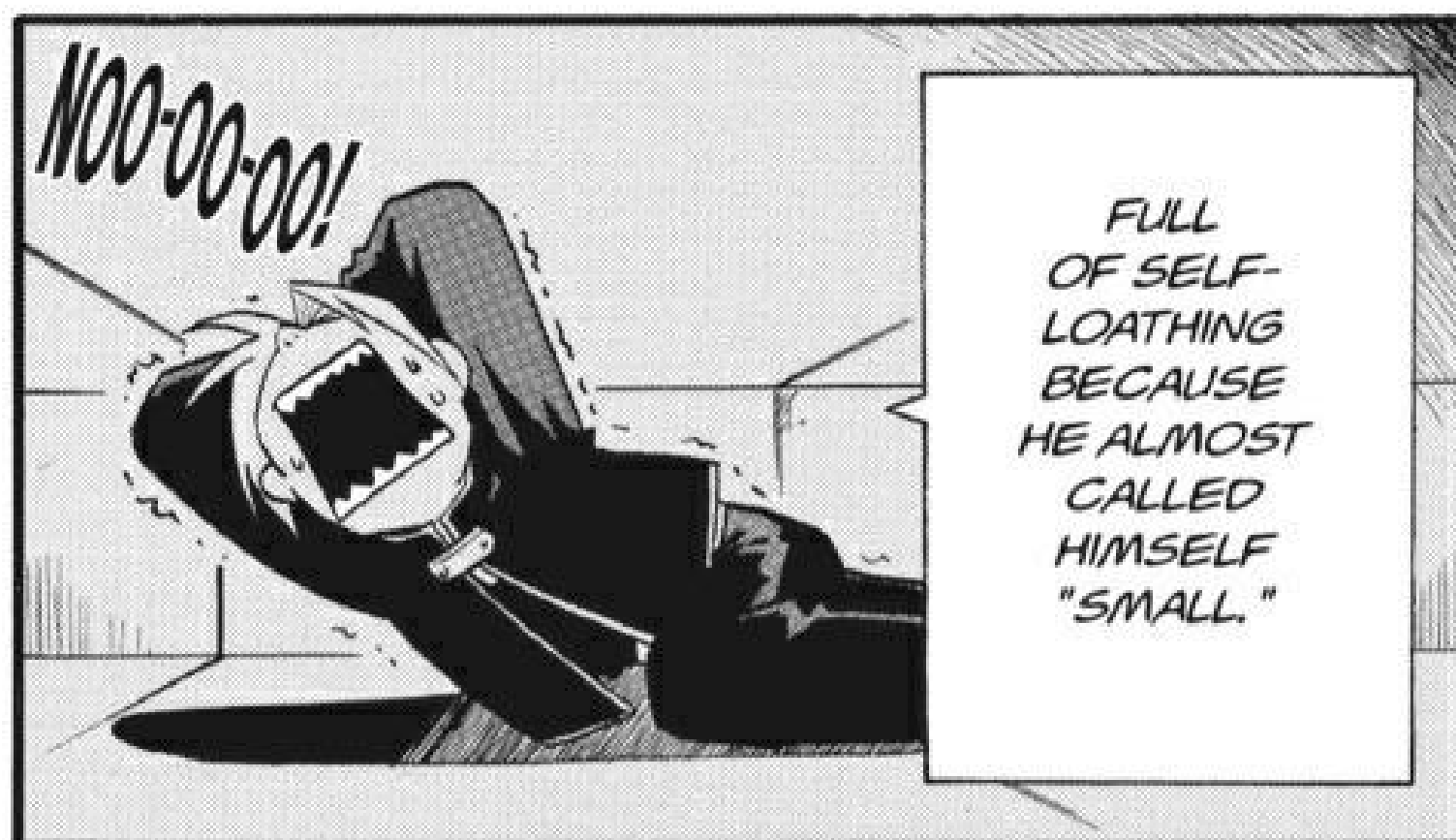
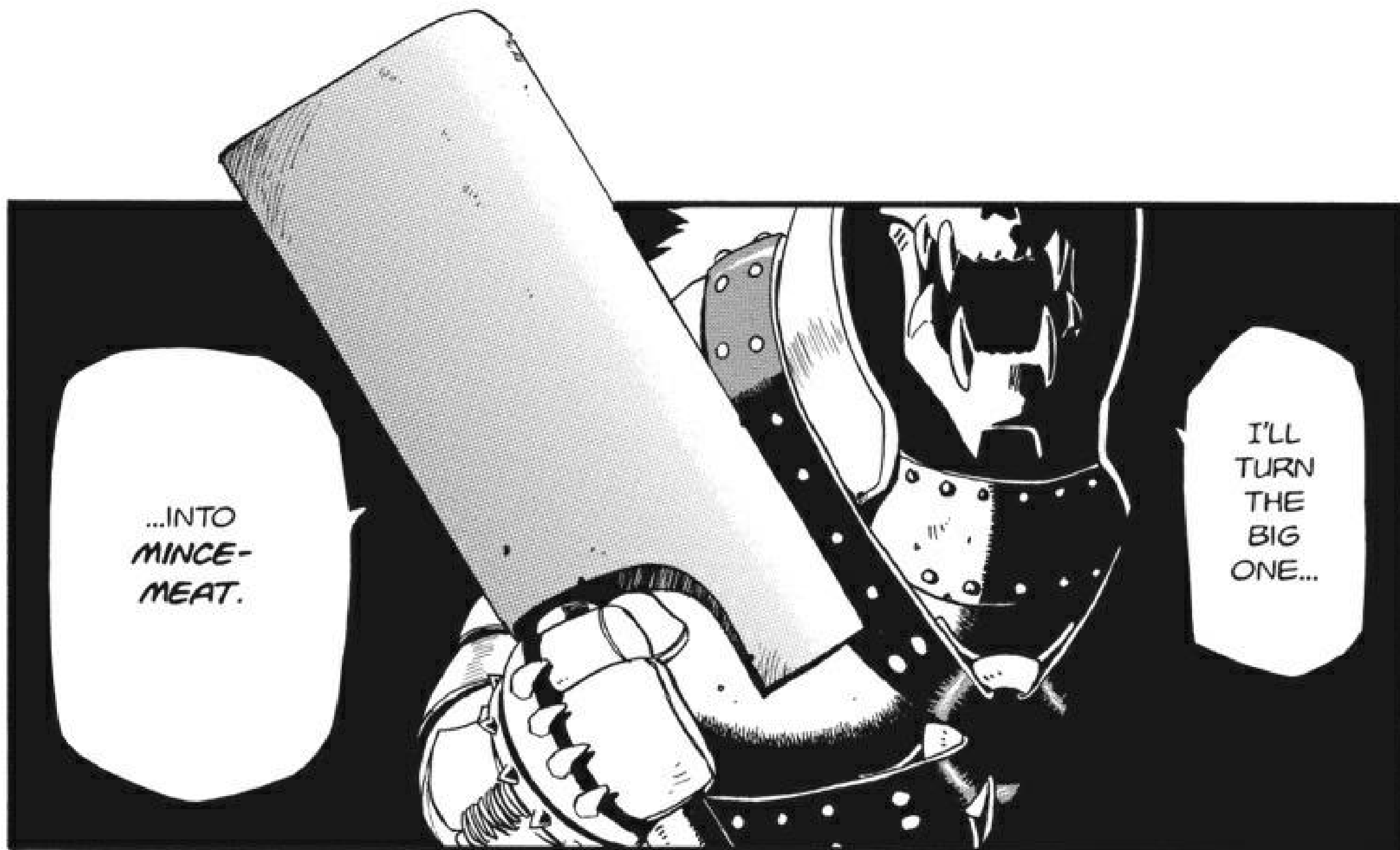


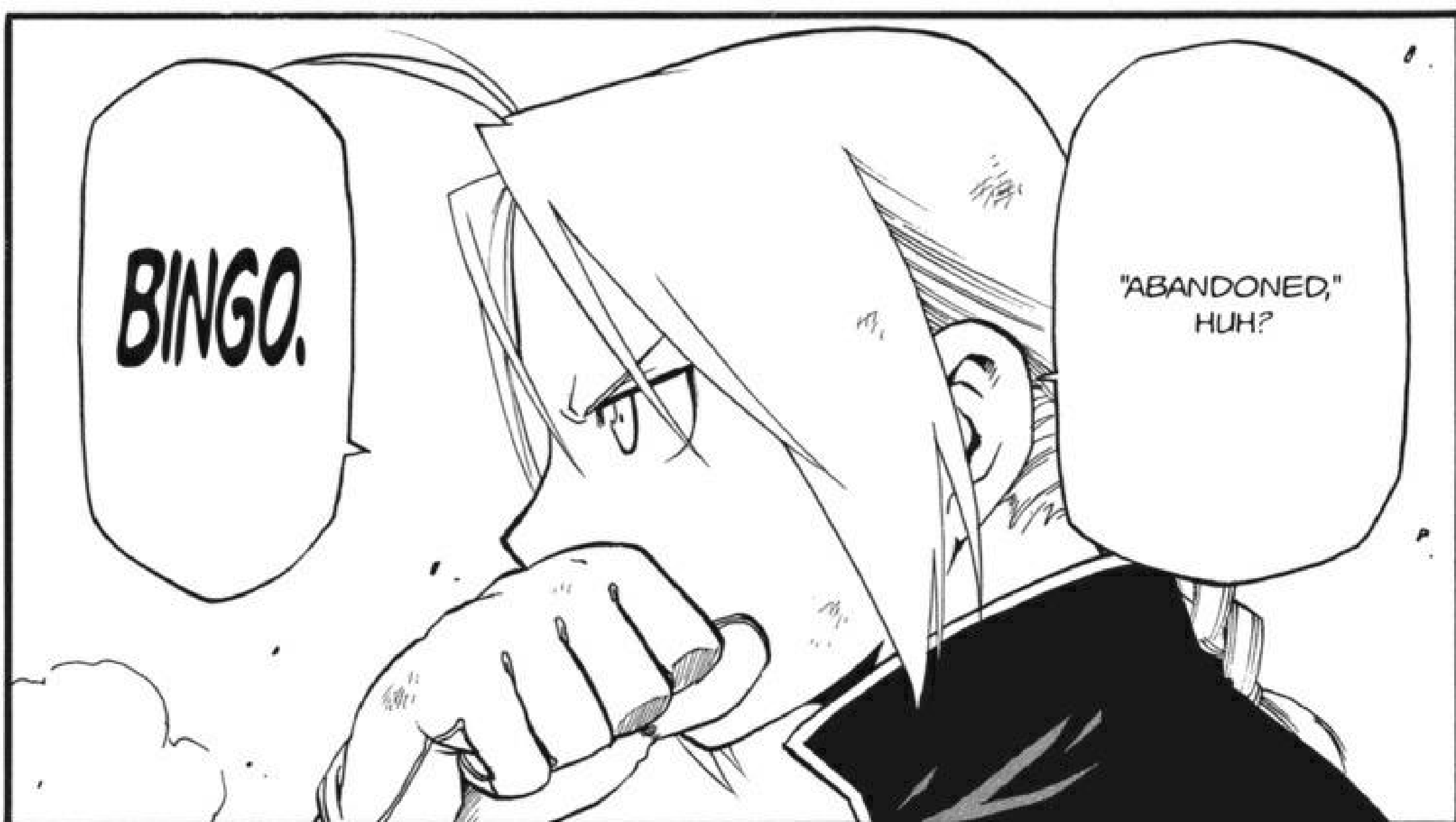
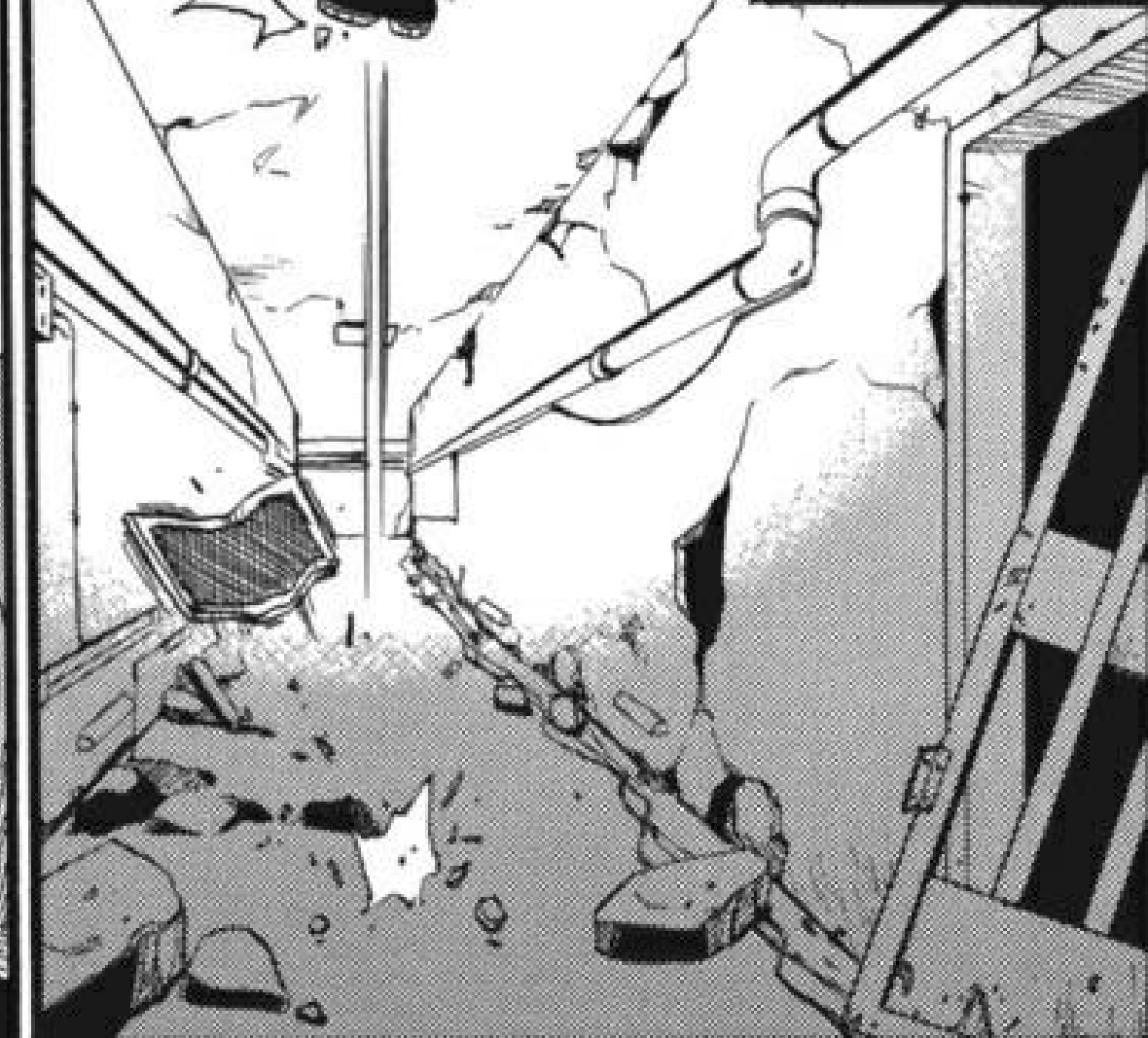
SHEESH...
THE ENTRANCE IS BLOCKED OFF, TOO?

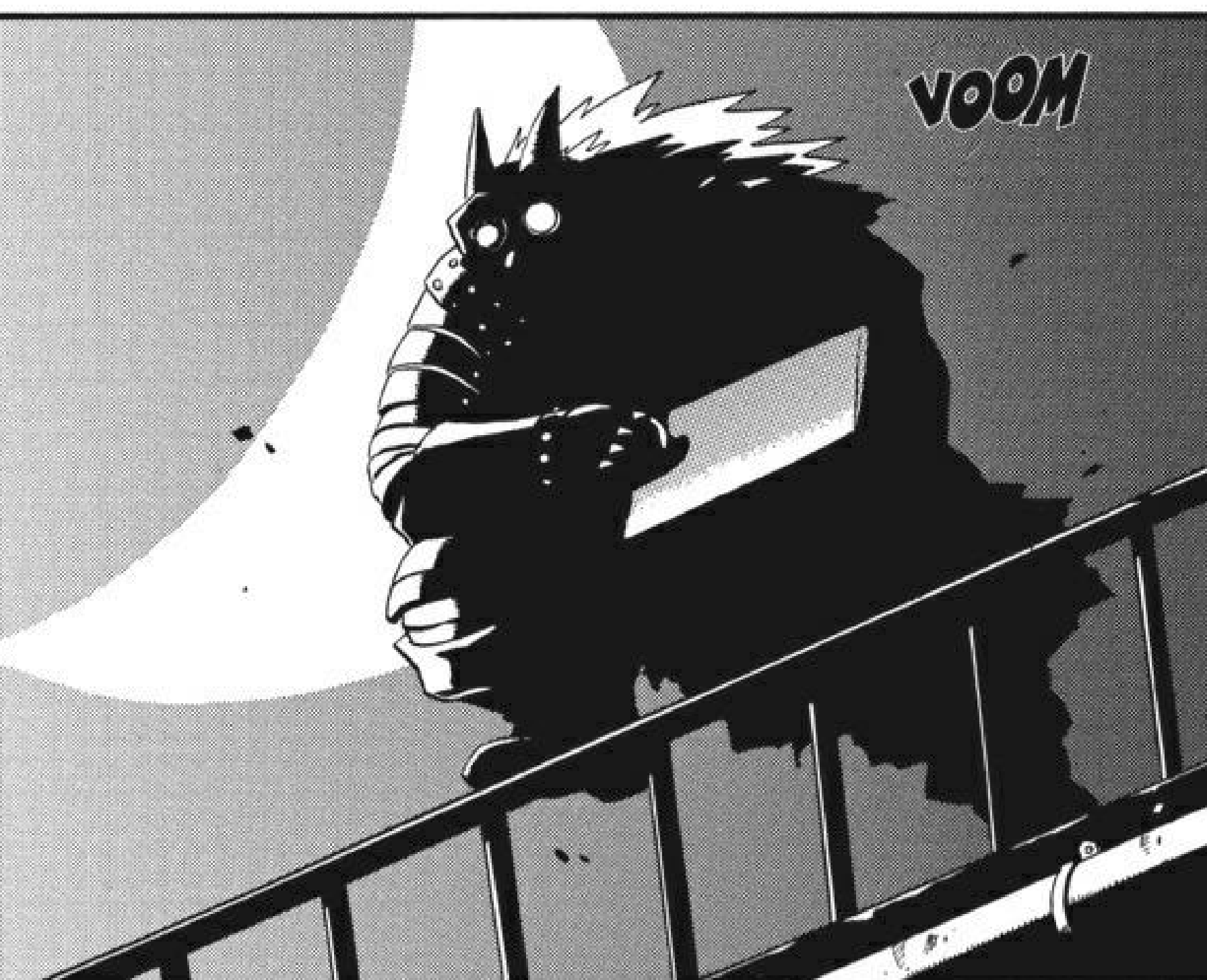














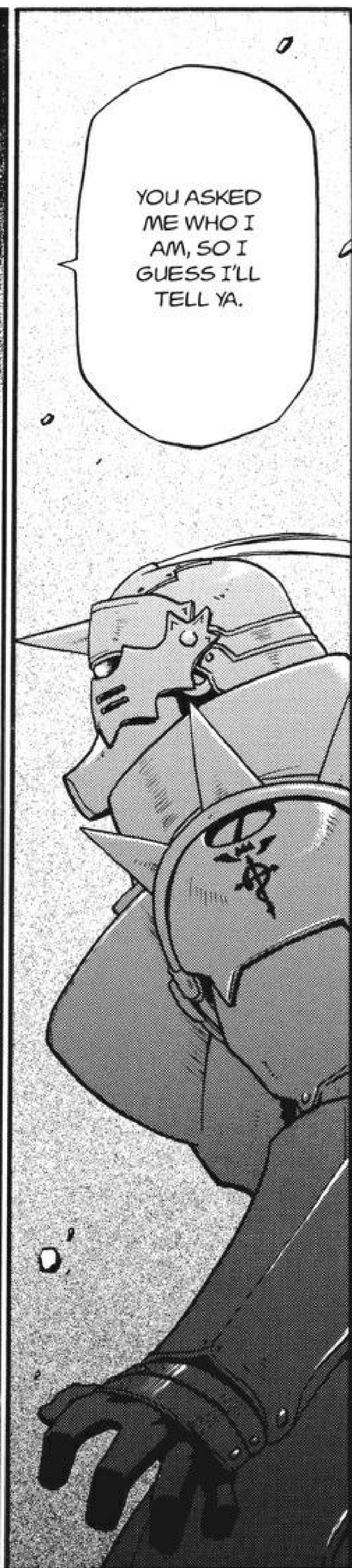
OTHER-
WISE,
THIS
WOULDN'T
BE ANY
FUN.

NOT BAD,
NOT BAD!
YER PRETTY
FAST FOR
SUCH A
BIG GUY. I
LIKE IT!

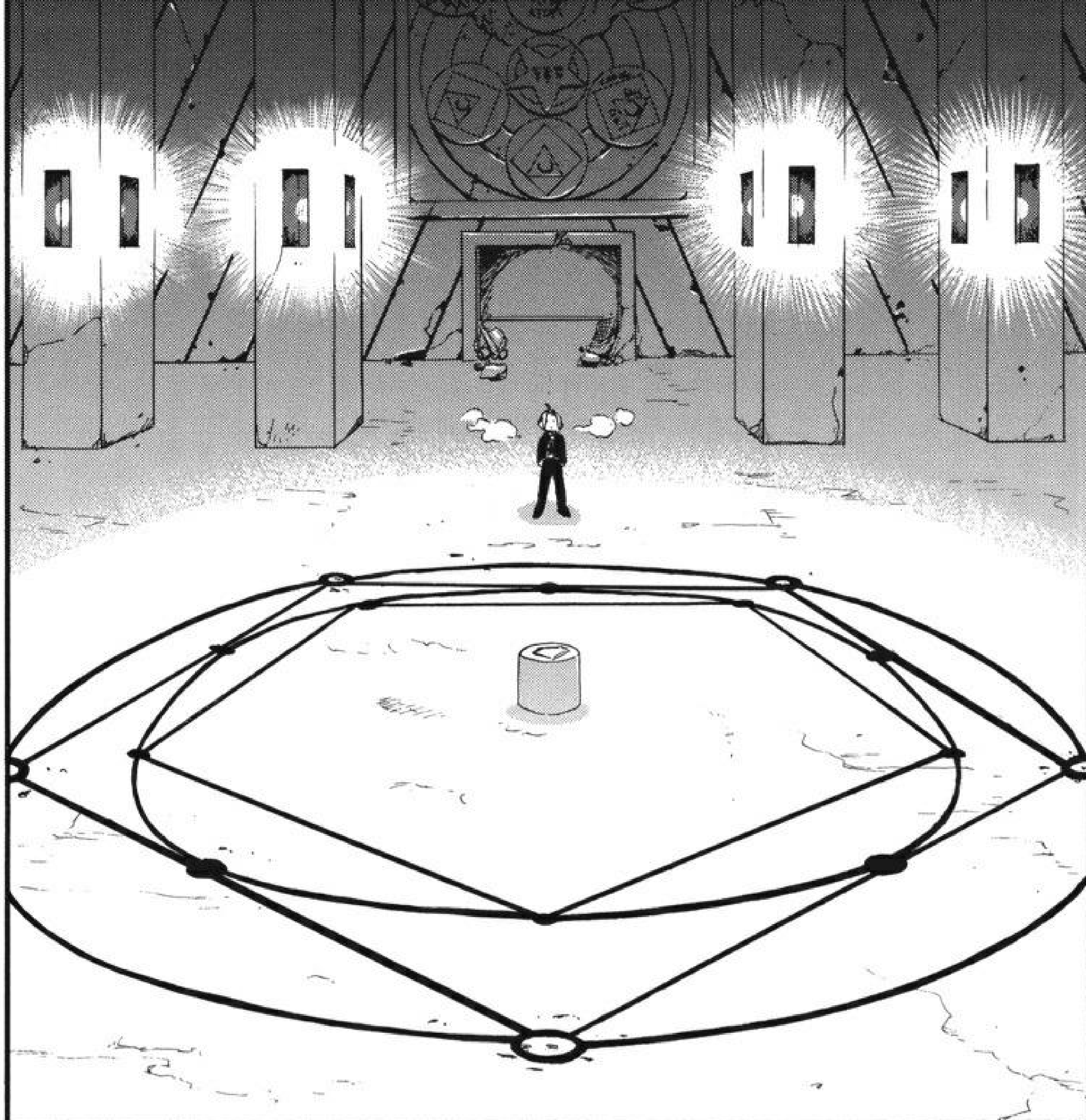


WHO'S
THERE
!!?

WHA--
!







IT IS.



COULD THIS
BE WHERE
THEY
TRANSMUTE
THE
PHILOSOPHER'S
STONE?



WHAT
IS
THIS
PLACE...
?



I DON'T
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE,
BUT YOU
SEEM TO
KNOW MUCH
ABOUT THE
STONE...TOO
MUCH.

CLANG

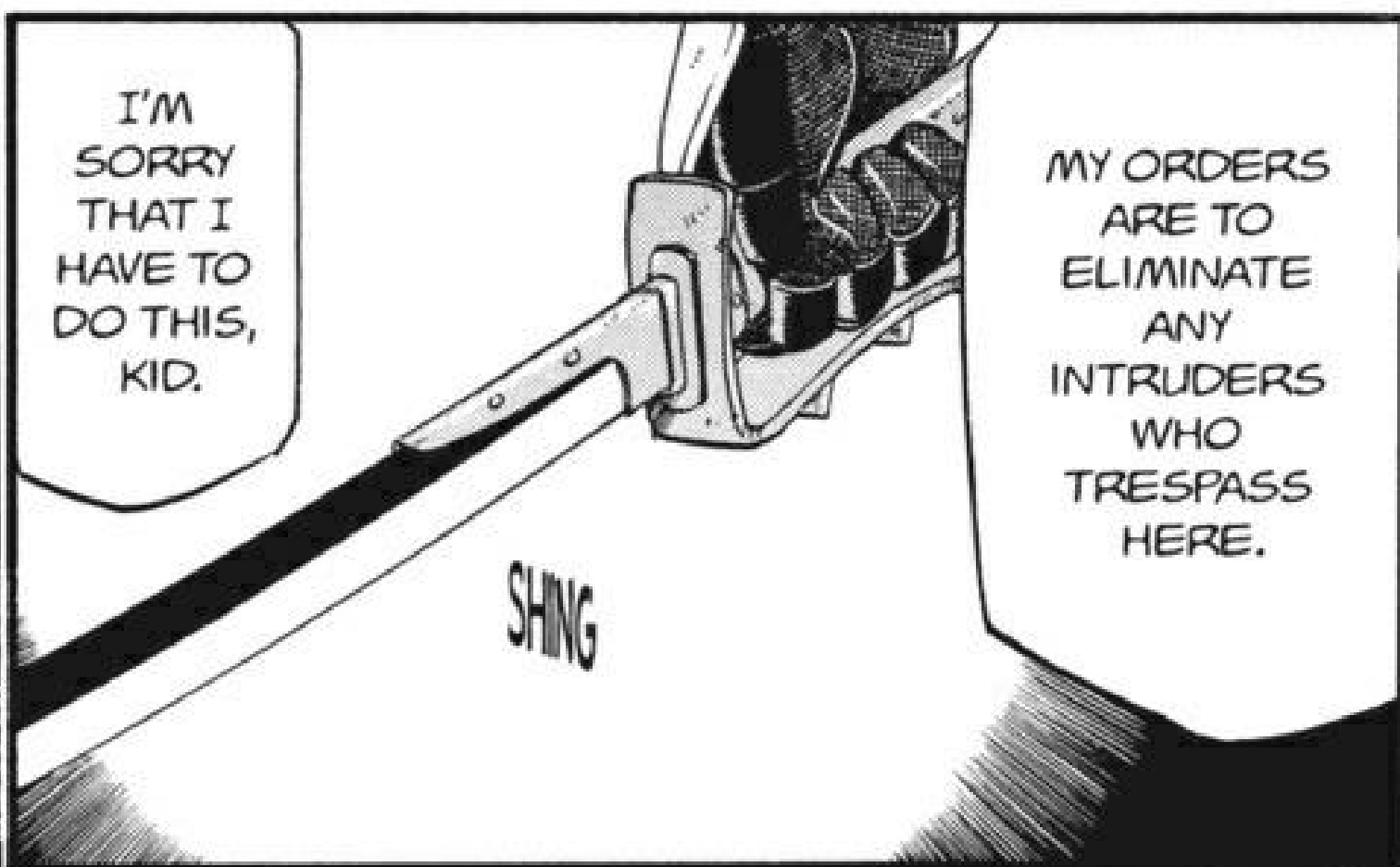


FOR NOW,
YOU MAY
CALL ME
NUMBER
48.

I HAVE
BEEN
ENTRUSTED
TO GUARD
THIS
PLACE.



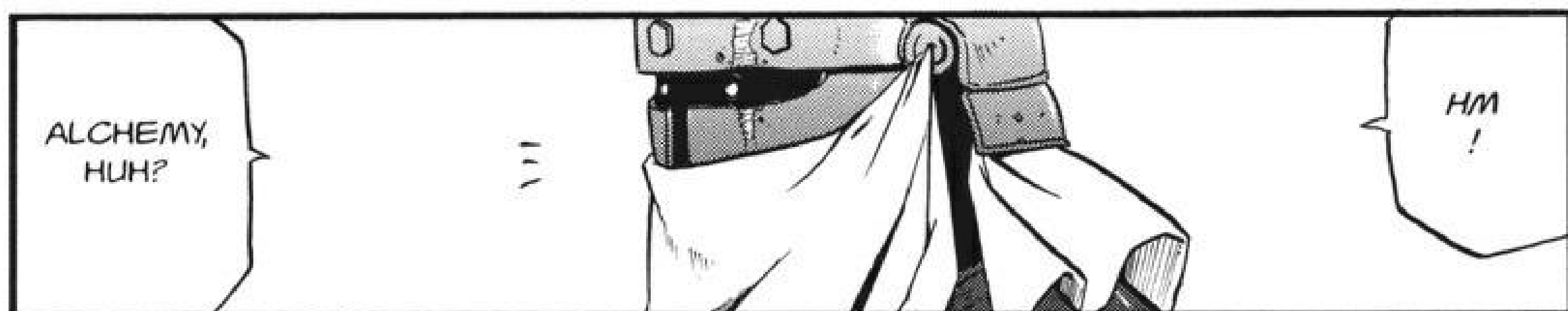
I'M
SORRY,
TOO.

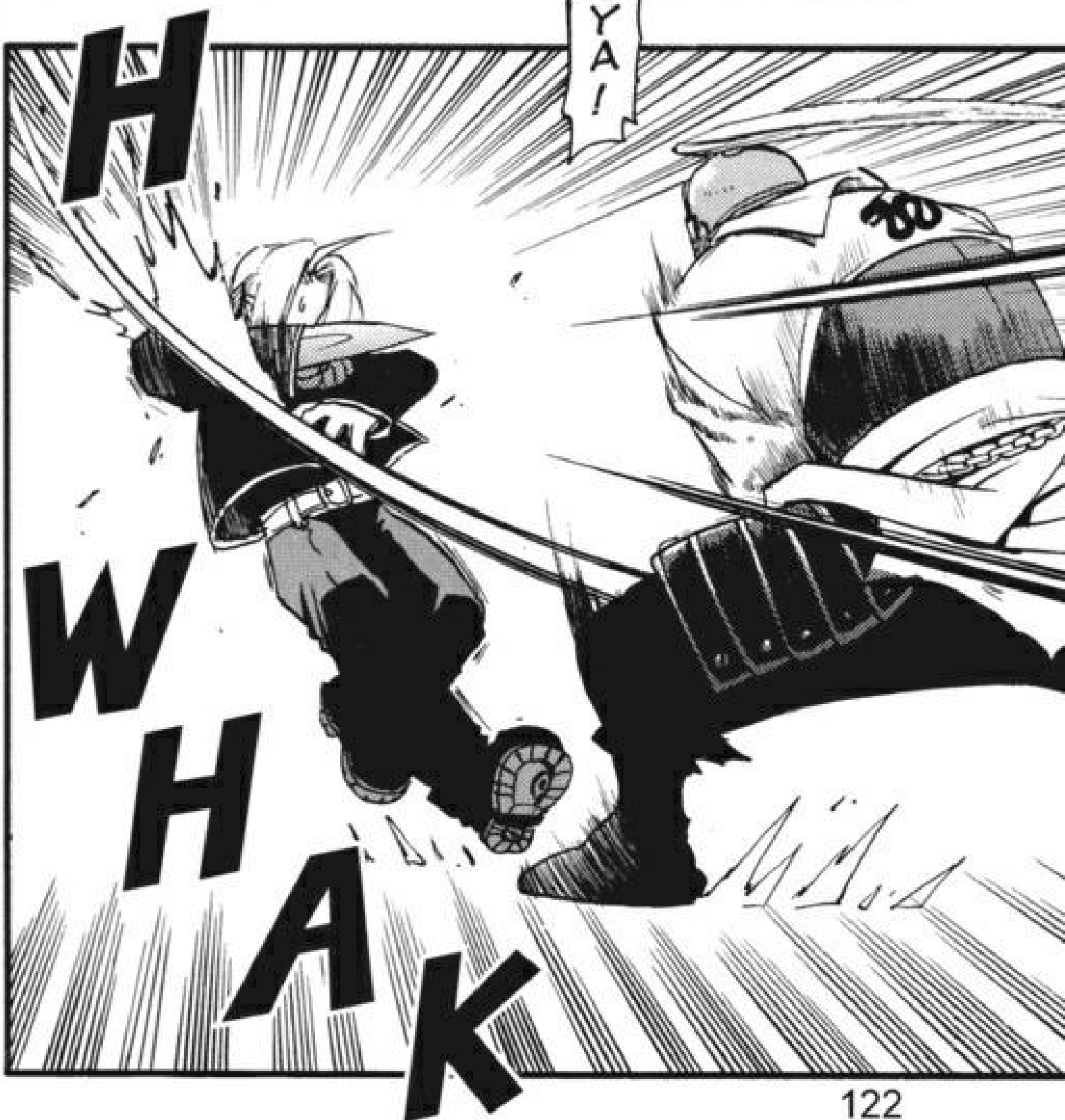
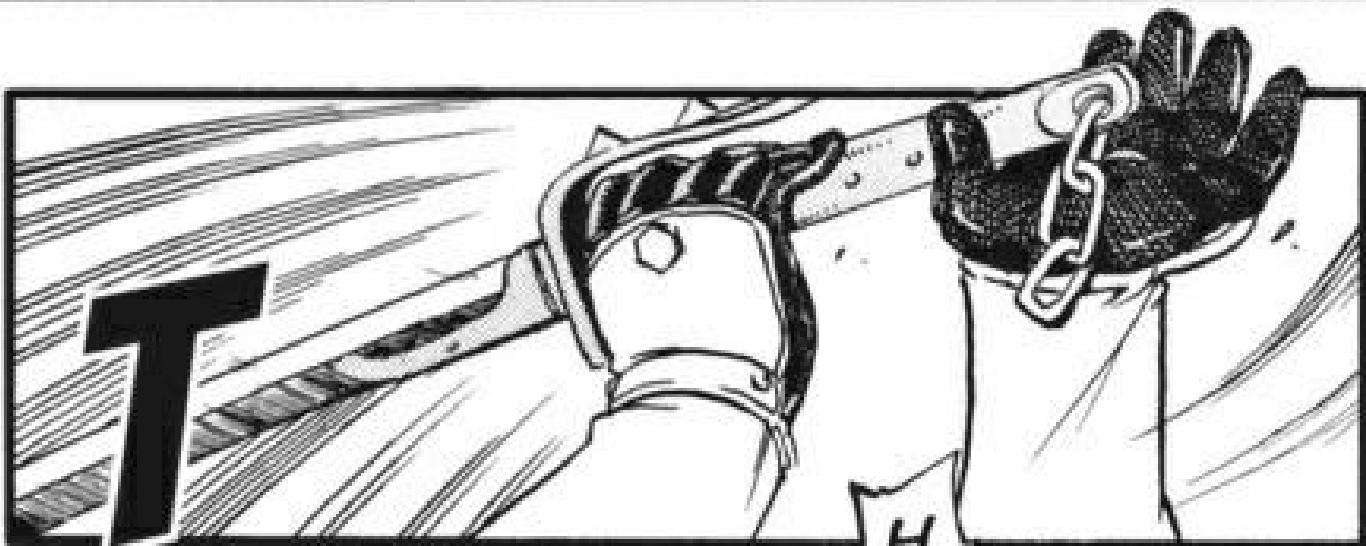
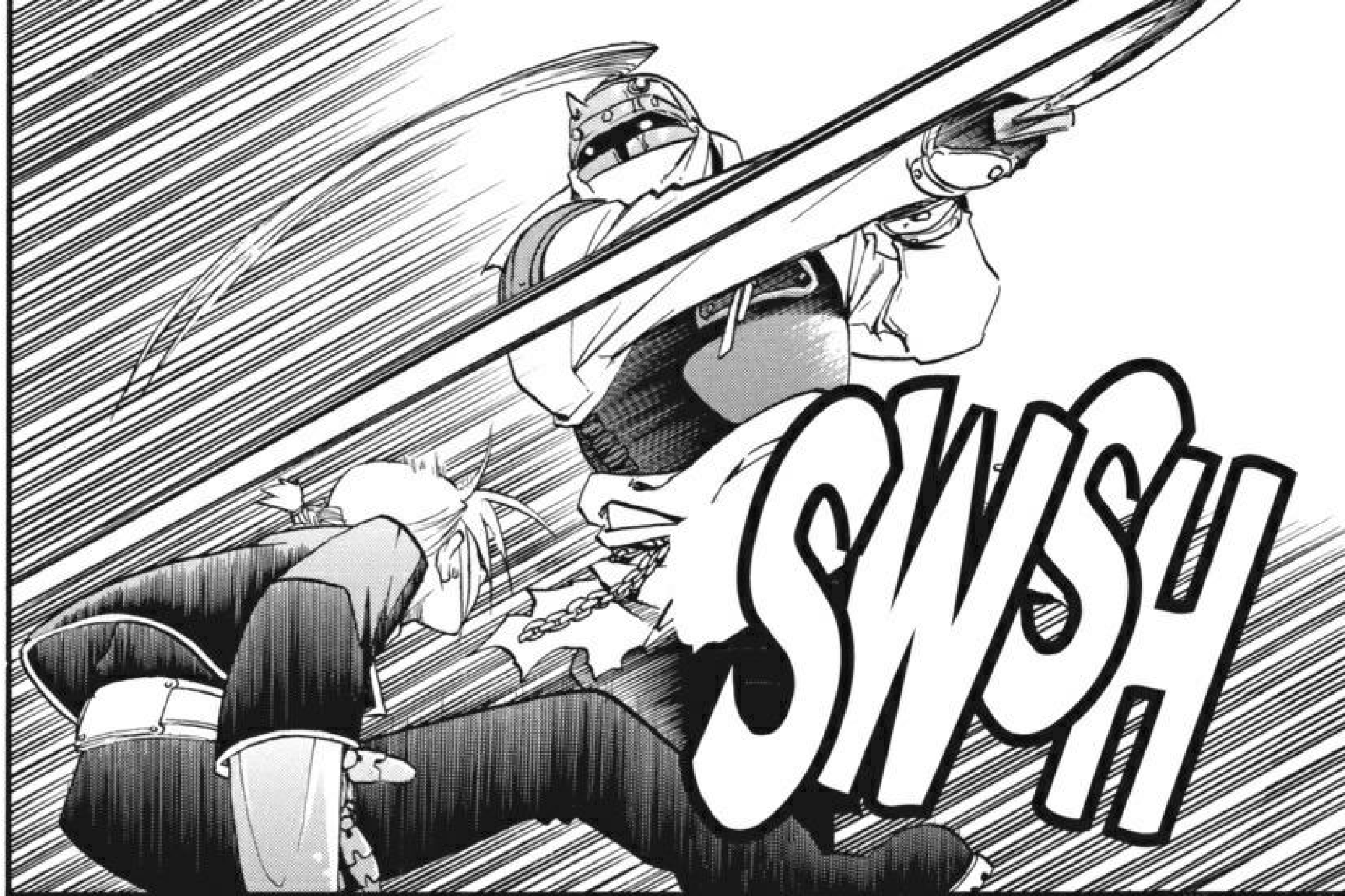


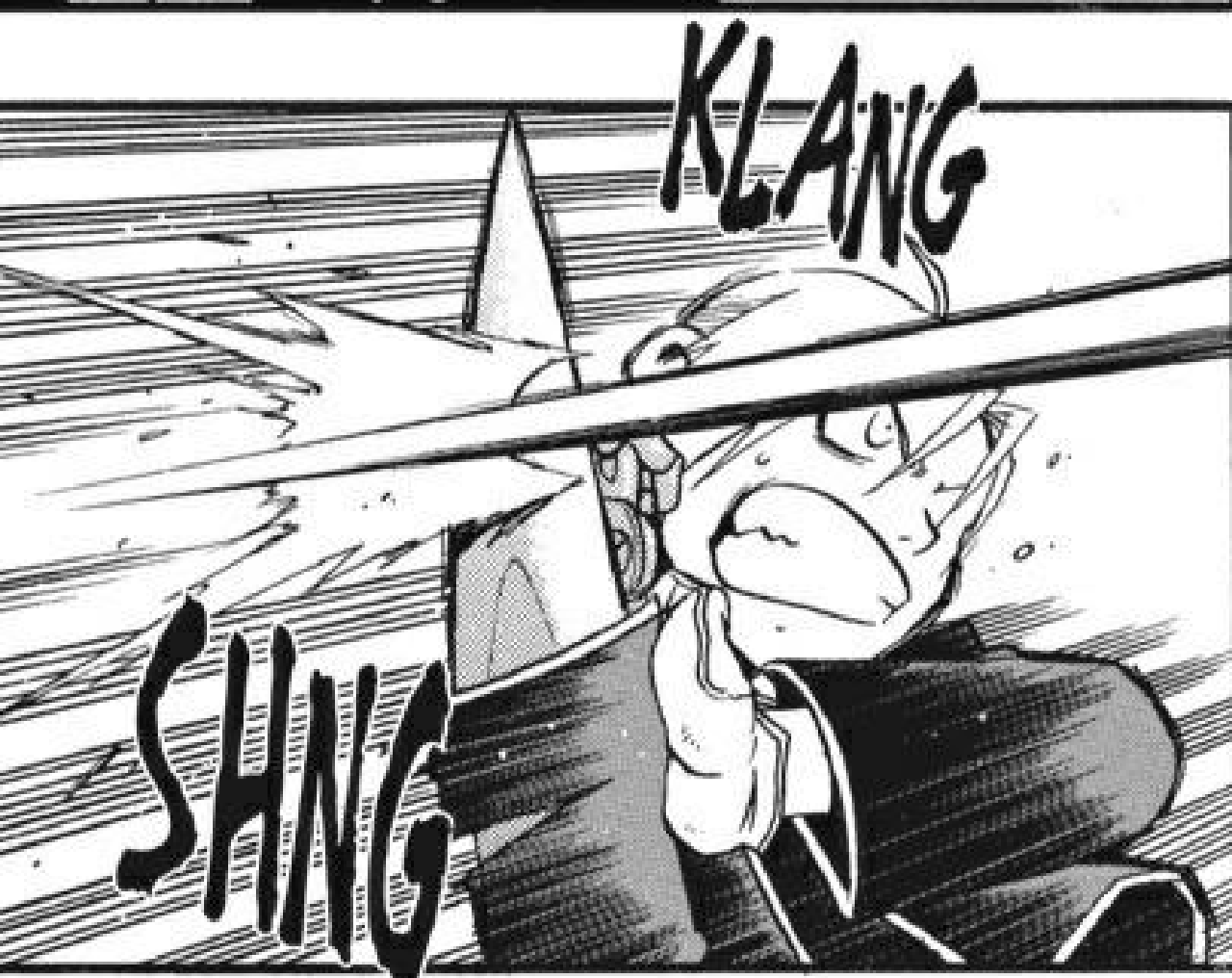
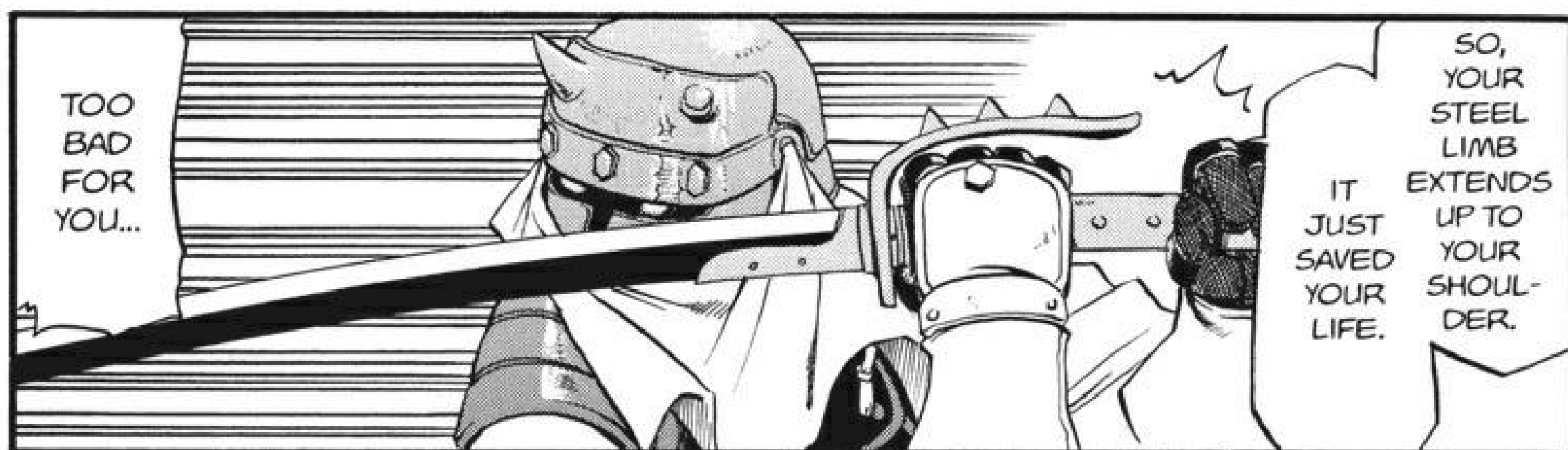
I'M
SORRY
THAT I
HAVE TO
DO THIS,
KID.

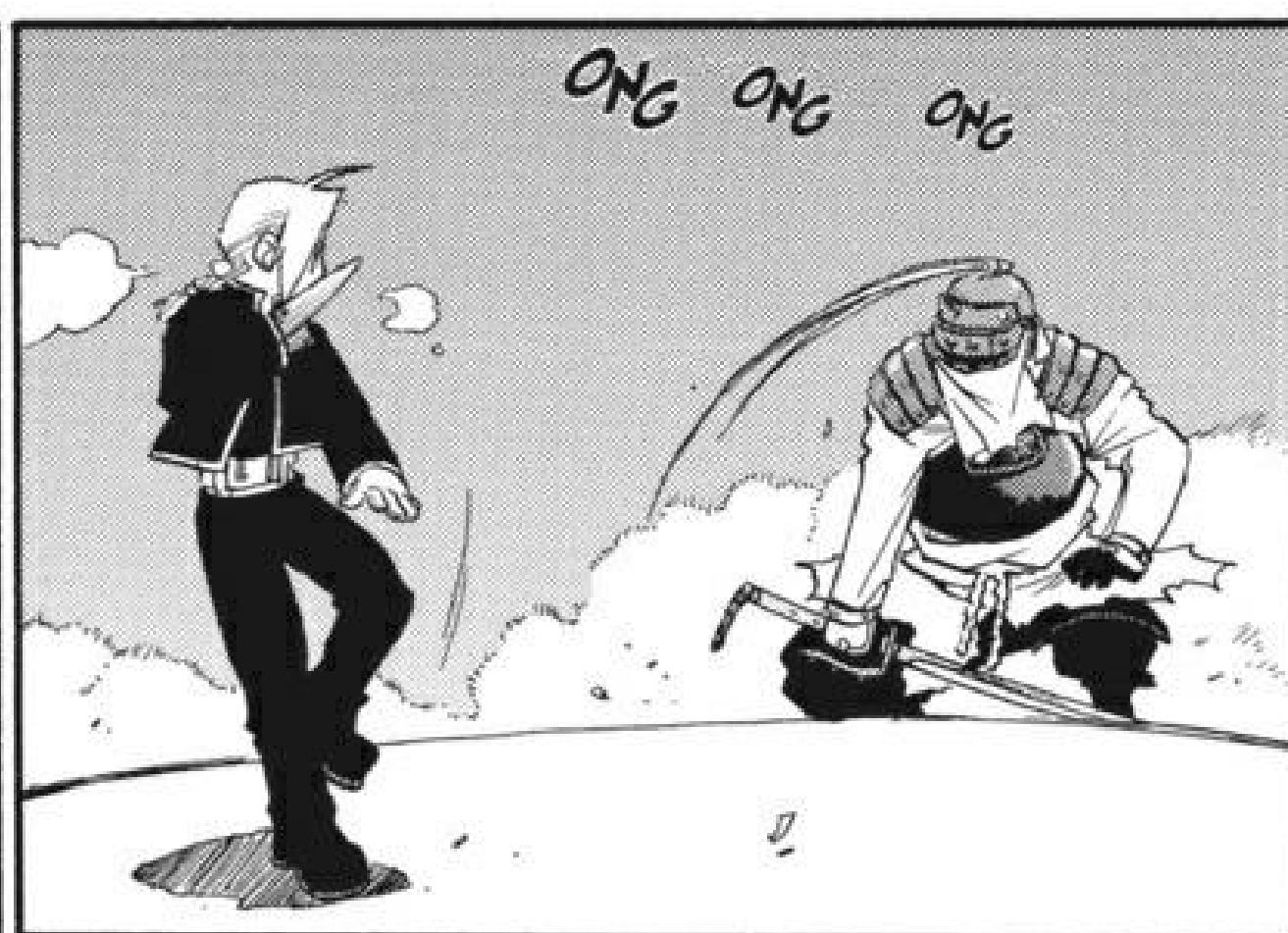
SHING

MY ORDERS
ARE TO
ELIMINATE
ANY
INTRUDERS
WHO
TRESPASS
HERE.

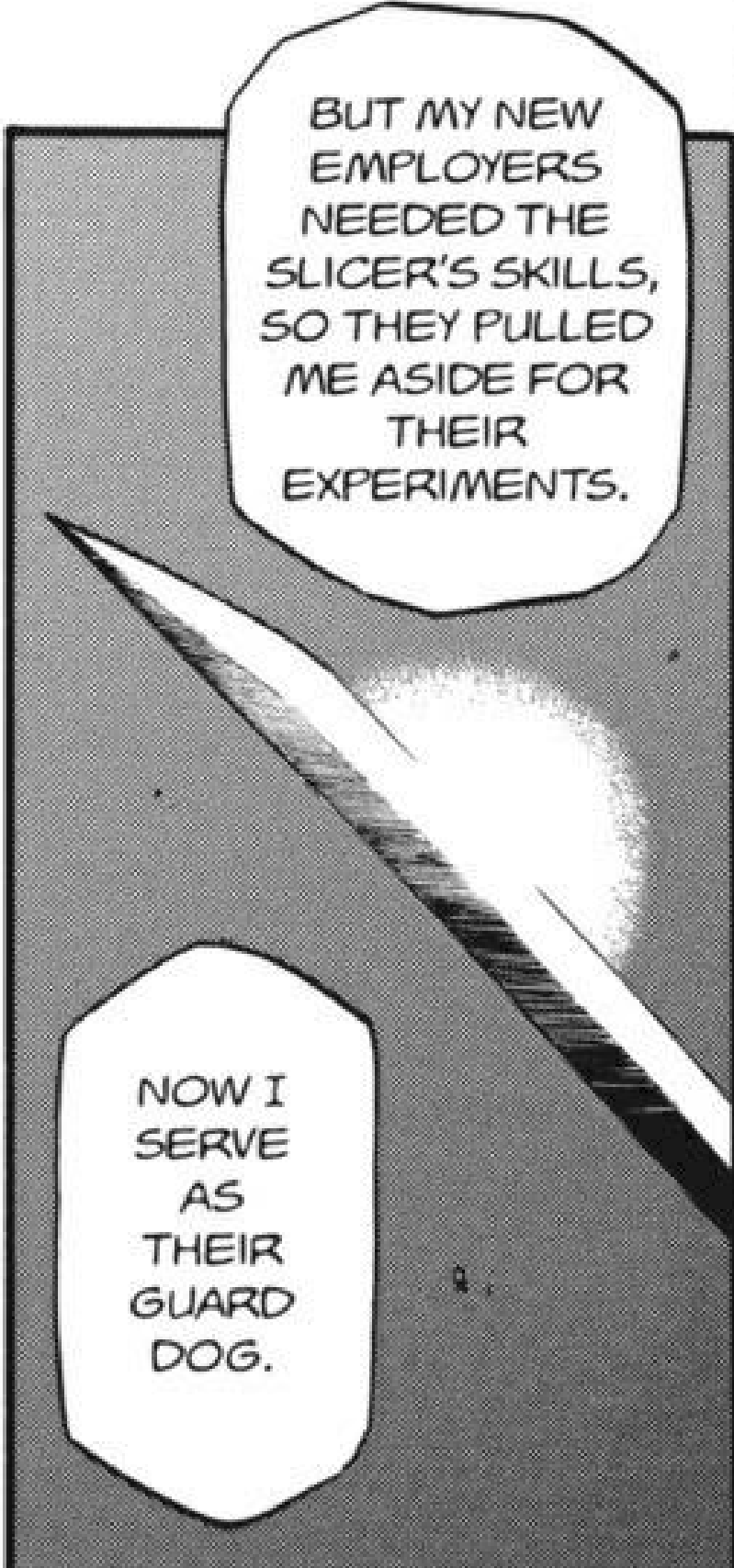












BUT MY NEW
EMPLOYERS
NEEDED THE
SLICER'S SKILLS,
SO THEY PULLED
ME ASIDE FOR
THEIR
EXPERIMENTS.

NOW I
SERVE
AS
THEIR
GUARD
DOG.



"48"
WAS MY
NUMBER
ON
DEATH
ROW.

ALLOW
ME TO
TELL YOU
A LITTLE
MORE
ABOUT
MYSELF,
THEN.



SO THAT
MEANS,
THERE
MUST BE A
SEAL THAT
CONNECTS
YOUR SOUL
TO THE
ARMOR,
RIGHT?

IN MY
PREVIOUS
LIFE--OR
RATHER WHEN
I HAD A BODY
OF FLESH
AND BLOOD--
I WAS THE
KILLER
KNOWN AS
"*SLICER*."

OFFICIALLY,
I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO HAVE
BEEN
EXECUTED
TWO YEARS
AGO.



CLACK

HERE.

THE
BLOOD
RUNE
IS IN
MY
HELM.

DESTROY
THIS
AND
YOU
WIN.



HM...I SEE
I NEEDN'T
EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING
TO YOU.



I DON'T
KNOW
MUCH
ABOUT
ALCHEMY,
MYSELF...

...BUT
APPARENTLY
THE SOUL IS
TIED TO THE
BLOOD, AND
THE IRON IN
THE BLOOD
BONDS WITH
THE METAL
IN THIS
ARMOR.



JUST
THOUGHT
I'D
ASK...

IF YOU'RE
THAT
CONSIDERATE,
MAYBE YOU'D
BE NICE
ENOUGH TO
JUST LET
ME GO?



FWA HA HA!
I ENJOY
THE THRILL
OF
DANGER
WHEN I
BATTLE.

AND DON'T
CALL ME
"OLD MAN."

IT'S
AWFULLY
**CONSID-
ERATE**
OF YOU
TO SHOW
ME YOUR
WEAK
POINT, OLD
MAN.

